

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC039673
Inspection date	11/02/2014
Inspector	Stephen Trainor
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	05/12/2013
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Service information

Brief description of the service

This children's home is operated by a local authority and provides care for up to six young people of either sex aged from 11 to 17 years. The home takes emergency placements. Placements are also available for young people bailed or remanded by a court.

The inspection judgements and what they mean

Good progress	The children's home has demonstrated continued improvement in quality of care and outcomes for children and young people and where appropriate has addressed all requirements and the large majority of recommendations that were raised at the previous inspection.
Satisfactory progress	The children's home has maintained quality of care and outcomes for children and young people and where appropriate has addressed all requirements and the majority of recommendations that were raised at the previous inspection.
Inadequate progress	The children's home has failed to address one or more requirements and/or has not met the majority of recommendations and/or the quality of care and outcomes for children and young people have declined since the last full inspection.

Progress

Since their previous inspection the service is judged to be making **good progress**.

At the previous inspection on 05 December 2013 the home's overall effectiveness was judged to be outstanding. The children's home has maintained a high quality of care between inspections and this continues to secure some excellent outcomes for children and young people. New ideas and initiatives are constantly being introduced and the home's management team uses the available information to support continuous improvement. The home provides a very strong, child-focused service that is conducive to young people developing their potential.

One recommendation set at the last inspection has been addressed in full and this has led to further improvements to the individual education arrangements of the young people. A Special Education Needs statement is being prepared by an education psychologist. The home's management addressed this matter with some expediency demonstrating the ability to work in partnership with other professionals and stakeholders. The very specific needs of the young people are responded to in full. It was encouraging to see all members of the peer group embracing their learning opportunities at their respective schools and colleges. Attendance and

attainment is excellent. One young person discussed their 'tremendous success' with regard to mock GCSE results. It was also encouraging to see young people actively involved with further education linked to the Prince's Trust. All achievements are celebrated leading to young people's confidence growing considerably. Young people regularly reflect on their progress with staff and this keeps them motivated.

Progress continues to be maintained by older young people who are well prepared for their futures. Staff are managing older resident's transition plans very well. Each young person develops skills suitable for the world of work and adulthood at a pace suited to them. Timelines are established and many partners are supporting individual's arrangements. Staff are proactive with their practice and challenge partners if there is any slippage with the targets set. Young people can sometimes become anxious about their move away from the home. One young person who left between inspections continues to be supported by staff. Other young people who have moved on from the home keep in touch with staff. Staff are encouraged that these young people continue to lead stable lifestyles and make good lifestyle choices. Young people confirmed that the staff are very caring. The staff working philosophy clearly goes 'that extra mile'. An ex-resident who made contact with Ofsted confirmed that she was well supported with her preparations and gained suitable, 'life skills to survive', post children's home.

Young people receive highly focussed individual care from a confident staff team and this means all the young people learn to take responsibility for their behaviours. There have been no changes to the staff team between inspections. All staff are qualified and remain motivated to provide the best possible experiences for the young people. The young people make sensible decisions virtually all of the time. There are no safeguarding concerns linked to missing from the home. The young people recognise the risks associated with going missing from the home. An incident within the local community involving three of the young people was reviewed. Young people, following discussions with their key workers, are in a better position to make the correct choices and keep out of mischief when they are out in the community.

The home has been settled between inspections with each young person following their individual routines.

There were no significant events or reportable incidents between inspections. No complaints or concerns were raised by the young people. Young people stated that they were safe.

The Registered Manager provides a clear vision for how the home should operate. Practice adjustments are made quickly when there are changes to regulations, inspection frameworks and national minimum standards. The whole staff team are quick to implement changes. The home's management team showed that it is perceptive in identifying the home's strengths and the areas where it could perform better. A careful matching process against new regulations is being undertaken. The home's management team provided an accurate assessment of the service and this allows realistic targets to be set. Monitoring and controlling the activities of the home through internal and external measures is well established. Ofsted receives quality assurance monitoring reports at the required frequency. The full impact and value

that living at this home has had on young people's lives is represented within Regulation 33 and 34 reports. Consultation processes are effective and many different ways of seeking views are being used. Comments showing high levels of satisfaction with the home's operation, management, young people's health and welfare and education.

No requirements or recommendations have been made as a result of this inspection.

About this inspection

The purpose of this inspection is to assure children and young people, parents, the public, local authorities and government of the quality and standard of the service provided. The inspection was carried out under the Care Standards Act 2000 to assess the effectiveness of the service and to consider how well it complies with the relevant regulations and meets the national minimum standards.

The report details the progress made by the provider since the last full inspection, identifies any further strengths, any areas for improvement and makes judgements as outlined in the *Inspection of children's homes – framework for inspection*.