

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspector	Paul Scott
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Provision subtype	Children's home

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Service information

Brief description of the service

This service is a local authority children's home. The home provides care and accommodation for six young people who have emotional and/or behavioural difficulties.

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**.

This interim inspection has focused on the progress made by the home since the last full inspection, at which the judgement for overall effectiveness was good. The home has demonstrated continued improvement in the quality of care and outcomes for young people.

Young people continue to live in a safe, caring and supportive environment. They benefit from being cared for by a dedicated and stable staff team who place their individual needs at the centre of the work they do. Young people are protected by robust safeguarding measures. Improved links with safeguarding professionals, in particular the police, have resulted in a more balanced and proportionate approach to risk management. For example, staff are increasingly aware of the reasons young people go missing from home, including spending time with friends. Improved procedures for risk assessing and agreeing overnight contact with friends has resulted in young people taking more responsibility for their safety and well-being. Also, the number of incidents of young people going missing from home has significantly reduced.

Relationships between young people and staff are a major strength. Young people say they feel valued and respected as individuals. One young person said: 'Staff really care. They always try to do the right thing. I feel safe and cared for. When I came to the home I was scared. Staff made me feel welcome and helped me settle in.' Young people speak very positively about the care and support they receive from staff. They say they feel safe and that their lives have improved because staff give them good advice and support. Young people are growing in confidence and emotional maturity. They are provided with opportunities that enable them to achieve their aspirations and make good progress in many aspects of their lives. For example, staff have worked closely with education providers to ensure barriers to participation in school and college are overcome. As a result, young people make good progress in this respect because each training package is individually tailored to suit their specific needs and requirements.

Young people talk positively about their futures. They are given ample opportunities and the support they require to make a successful transition to adulthood. Staff work collaboratively with leaving care services to ensure young people get the right support they need to move out of the home. It is very positive that staff continue to show an interest in, and a commitment to young people after they have left, similar to that of a parent. For example, staff will encourage young people to keep in contact and regularly visit the home, including celebrating Christmas and birthdays. One young person said: 'I am in a much better place because of staff. They have really helped me with my life. They have been like my family and if I hadn't moved here I wouldn't have experienced what I have. It has really helped me grow up.'

The home is effectively managed and continues to show capacity for improvement based on its performance since the last inspection. The requirement from the previous inspection has been positively addressed. Changes to the Regulation 34 reporting format have been made and this format now better captures the views of young people, their parents and placing authorities. However, there is no analysis or evaluation of this information which is a missed opportunity to further develop and improve the services provided by the home. Significant progress has been made in addressing the recommendation from the previous inspection. Staff have worked exceptionally hard to improve relationships between young people. The effectiveness of this approach is evident in the positive, sibling-like interactions that were evident throughout this inspection. Consequently, young people's behaviour has improved and the number of altercations and disputes between young people has reduced.

Areas for improvement

Recommendations

To improve the quality and standards of care further the service should take account of the following recommendation(s):

- continue to improve the systems for monitoring and controlling the activities of the home. In particular, demonstrate how information within Regulation 34 reports, specifically the captured views of children and partners, is being

evaluated and used to promote continuous improvement and development. (NMS 21.1)

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*.