

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC040509
Inspection date	07/03/2013
Inspector	Bill Drumm
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	20/11/2012
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Service information

Brief description of the service

The home provides care and accommodation for up to three young people of either gender on a medium- to long-term basis. The home is run by a local authority that provides services to support young people with emotional and behavioural problems.

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 last inspection in November 2012, the overall effectiveness rating of the home was good. The home has made good progress since the last inspection. Developments and improvements ensure that young people remain well cared for and safe. Young people appear happy living at the home and have a warm, relaxed and friendly manner with staff.

Two requirements and three recommendations were made at the last inspection and all of these matters have been fully addressed. One requirement was made in relation to maintaining accurate and up-to-date records of all admissions and discharges of young people to the home. The home's manager has reviewed the home's admissions and discharge register and all relevant information is now recorded. This means that an accurate record of the life of young people at the home is maintained. The second requirement was to ensure that the independent visitor to the home interviews, with their consent and in private, the parents or relatives of the young people living there, in order to form an opinion of the standard of care provided in the home. Documentation used by the independent visitor to record their visits has been reviewed and updated. The documentation has specific

areas which they must complete in order to collate this information. This helps to ensure that all interactions are fully recorded and that the opinions of all those involved are fully borne in mind.

A recommendation was made to ensure that each young person understands, within their level of understanding, the purpose and content of their placement plan. The home's manager has undertaken a comprehensive review of the placement planning documentation used within the home. Each young person now has a clear and specific placement plan, written in plain English in place. This means that young people know what a placement at the home is meant to achieve and can see the progress they are making.

The second recommendation was to review the home's restraint records to ensure that they fully comply with national minimum standards. The local authority has reviewed the documentation used to record all holds or restraints used on young people. The records now fully comply with national minimum standards. This will help to keep young people safe from harm.

The final recommendation was made in relation to the home's Statement of Purpose to ensure it fully describes the experience of staff members. The home's manager has reviewed the Statement of Purpose which now includes full details of the experience staff members. This helps placing social workers to determine which home is the most appropriate to help young people achieve their maximum potential.

In addition to the above, the home has made improvements in other areas. With the perseverance, hard work and support of staff, one young person has returned home to live with their family. This means that the young person will have a better understanding of their background and have a positive relationship with both their parents and siblings. Young people have also helped to raise money for a local church by participating in a sponsored walk, and plans are also in place for them to help raise money for Comic Relief. This helps young people to understand the needs of others and to have a community presence.

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*.