

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC040633
Inspection date	12/02/2013
Inspector	Jennie Christopher
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	11/10/2012
--------------------------------	------------

© Crown copyright 2013

Website: www.ofsted.gov.uk

This document may be reproduced in whole or in part for non-commercial educational purposes, provided that the information quoted is reproduced without adaptation and the source and date of publication are stated.

Service information

Brief description of the service

The home, which is owned and managed by a local authority, provides care and accommodation for up to five children with 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**.

At the last full inspection in October 2012, the overall quality rating for the service was judged as good with three requirements made. The home demonstrates continued improvement in the quality of care provided, with a focused commitment to staff training and development. A particular strength of the home is the strong and proactive management team which, coupled with the enthusiasm of the staff team, ensures a positive home environment for young people.

At the last inspection, requirements were set regarding the inclusion of an age range in the Statement of Purpose, ensuring the home does not provide accommodation over its registered numbers, and including all required information in records of sanctions and restraints. The home has remained within its registered numbers, despite pressure on the service during transition periods for young people. This has aided those young people moving on to have the attention they require to support positive endings, as new young people have not moved in before they have left. The amendment of documents ensures all records contain the required information. The home has worked hard to involve young people in the sanction process, and as a result, they have developed a more holistic and restorative approach to reparation. Young people are more comfortable with this approach as they are able to manage

differences in the group, for example. As a result, the amount of sanctions has dramatically reduced.

Young people continue to receive well-planned care from a committed and enthusiastic staff team. Young people have a positive view of the care that they receive, and observed interactions suggest their relationships with staff are very good and that they feel safe. Staff have clear and consistent boundaries, which have enabled young people to positively manage their own behaviour, while considering their impact on others. The high staffing ratio ensures young people benefit from the support and attention they require to access positive activities while keeping safe. The culture within the home celebrates individuality and diversity. The home has given thorough consideration to improving identity work with young people, including what this means for them in their daily lives. Young people have devised a plan of which topics surrounding identity they would like to explore monthly. These include celebrations and keeping safe.

Since the last inspection, work has been done to evaluate the current level of service and to identify areas for development in the coming year. As a result, the home has become a pilot for using attachment theory as a basis for the care they provide, with a view to it being rolled out across the county if it is appropriate. Staff are benefiting throughout the year from training in various areas of attachment theory and how to work with young people who display differing attachment styles. Staff feel this is valuable, and although in its early stages, believe it will be of great benefit to them and in turn the young people they care for. External monthly monitoring reports identify areas of concern and improvement within the home. Six-monthly monitoring by managers continues to be incredibly thorough and robust and demonstrates consultation with young people, staff and other significant people.

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*.