

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC040633
Inspection date	27/03/2014
Inspector	Jennie Christopher
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	14/11/2013
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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 November 2013, the overall quality rating for the service was judged as outstanding with two recommendations made. The home demonstrates a commitment to continually provide an ever evolving, quality service for young people. A particular strength of the home is the skilled staff team who have a clear focus on improving outcomes for young people.

The recommendations set at the last inspection have both been met. The policy regarding the use of the discrete bedroom door alarm system has been revised to ensure young people's privacy is respected at all times. Consent for the use of the alarms is agreed with parents and social workers during the placement planning stage and young people are supported to understand their individually assessed need for the alarms. In addition the home has updated their room search policy, again to ensure young people's privacy and dignity is respected. Staff annual appraisals have been planned for the year and both young people and other members of the staff team provide their views on individual's abilities and performance. This ensures a rounded approach to assuring the quality of care provided.

Young people continue to receive well planned care in line with their identified

needs, from a committed and enthusiastic staff team. Young people consistently have a positive view of the care that they receive. They say they have enjoyed involvement in a 'Come Dine with Me' evening and visits to restaurants to try new foods, including Sushi, which young people had mixed feelings about. During the visits young people were engaged in a wide range of activities in the home and in the community, including sowing vegetable seeds in the garden and preparing to go to Scouts and swimming. Observed interactions between young people and staff demonstrate their relationships are excellent and that young people feel well cared for and safe. Staff have clear and consistent boundaries, and defuse incidents of high anxiety and excitement with skill and ease. The culture within the home celebrates individuality and diversity and young people are gaining an increased knowledge of both their own and other people's cultures through themed evenings with guest speakers from within the organisation. Most recently, young people enjoyed a Nigerian themed evening with activities and discussion with staff from another home in the organisation.

Since the last inspection, a great deal of thought has been given to continually improving the service provided for young people and the home they live in. The environment is being updated with the redecoration of bedrooms, including staff making a superhero themed bed for one young person. New carpets are being laid throughout the communal areas. Young people are being supported to learn age appropriate life skills through a newly devised 'The Sky is the Limit' interactive pack. Alongside skills such as baking and saving money, there are essential interpersonal skills, including how to be a good friend. The home is working closely with an age appropriate drama group to increase young people's awareness of exploitation and local police officers meet with young people to discuss other areas where they could be at risk. The management team are aware of the new regulations and steps have been taken to ensure the home is compliant with them. This includes updating the Statement of Purpose and considering how independent monitoring visits will be undertaken in the future.

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*.