

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC042147
Inspection date	17/12/2013
Inspector	Kevin Whatley
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	26/06/2013
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Service information

Brief description of the service

The home is run by a private organisation. It is registered to accommodate up to six young people of either gender who have emotional and behavioural difficulties. The home aims to support young people to return to family, move to foster carers or to move on to independent accommodation. The organisation has its own school which is registered with the Department for Education.

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 **satisfactory progress**.

At the last inspection, June 2013, the home was judged as being good; one recommendation was made, this has been addressed. Young people now have their views recorded more clearly to ensure they understand what is written about them. For instance young people now read and sign key-work reports and risk assessments regarding their behaviour and risk. Such an approach ensures young people are afforded regular opportunities to understand the documents completed concerning them.

Since the last inspection the home has continued to offer young people a suitable standard of care. Young people with poor histories of attendance in education have improved in this area and are making good progress as a result. Similarly young people with challenging behaviours have been encouraged and supported to utilise the help and guidance provided to them, to reduce the number of times they are missing, by a stable and experienced staff team. However some young people have

made less progress and despite doing well in some areas have engaged in problematic behaviours, including violence toward staff. This has resulted in their arrest.

Staff work hard to encourage young people to behave appropriately with clear boundaries and protocols in place to address negative or challenging behaviours. Close liaison is maintained with the local police which enables a good flow of relevant information and support. For the most part this has been successful with the home being generally settled. However one incident involved a number of young people physically assaulting staff; this culminated in one young person having their placement terminated. Despite this staff state they are committed to meeting the needs of young people and display a good appreciation of the young people in their care. Staff say they receive very good support and guidance and say the Registered Manager is 'fantastic'.

Placing social workers praise the efforts of the staff team and the home in general, in particular their commitment toward supporting young people who display particularly high risk taking behaviours. For some young people their risk taking behaviours have escalated to a stage where the home has had to acknowledge they cannot keep them safe. Where this is the case the home liaises extremely well with placing authorities and future placements to ensure smooth transitions take place.

Inspectors were aware during this inspection of a police investigation into allegations about the use of restraint at the setting. Actions taken by the setting in response to the incident were considered alongside the other evidence available at the time of the inspection to inform inspectors' judgements.

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*.