

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	07/01/2014
Inspector	Jennifer Reed
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

A private organisation owns and operates this children's home. The setting supports and cares for one young person who has complex emotional and 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**.

The children's home was judged to be good overall at the full inspection undertaken in June 2013. The home has satisfactorily addressed the one requirement and the two recommendations made for improvement raised at the previous inspection. The service continues to demonstrate a commitment to improving the quality of care and outcomes for accommodated young people.

Young people's placement plans have been reviewed and amended to ensure that they accurately reflect the care young people receive. Individual plans now include clear descriptions of the use of door alarms, used for the purpose of safeguarding and promoting young people's welfare. The plans also show that parents, placing authorities and young people are aware of these surveillance measures and include their agreement to their usage to keep young people safe and well.

The home has improved the quality of risk assessments for young people. The home no longer follows a prescribed, formatted process of risk assessment for all young people. Risk assessments are now completed on an individual basis for each young person, according to their unique needs and abilities. Staff only assess the issues and

activities where the potential for the risk of harm is considered a possibility. This means that guidance to staff on how best to care for young people and keep them safe is more focused, and therefore likely to prove more effective. Furthermore, stigmatisation and discriminatory practice is reduced by meaningful risk assessment, contributing to young people's files providing a more accurate account of their needs and history.

The home has now installed an internet connection for young people to use, to help them with their studies and to support contact with their families. This improves young people's access to information and increases their communication options.

Staff continue to demonstrate their resilience and strong commitment to supporting young people who present challenging behaviour. The staff team are well-supported by senior managers within the organisation and specific training is provided to support the staff team in meeting young people's particular needs. A reflective approach is employed to consider the effectiveness of team functioning and the quality of the home's care practices. Reflection and learning from each placement helps staff and managers to gain a better understanding of how the home can improve their effectiveness in meeting young people's complex needs. Managers have identified the importance of recognising the impact of intensity within individual placements and the need to consider the provision of appropriate staffing ratios and work patterns. Managers are striving to maximise the effectiveness of the staff team and to improve the quality of support provided to young people. This is likely to lead to improved outcomes for young people.

Young people are fully involved in day-to-day decisions about the running of their home. They participate in menu planning, engage in activities of their choice and have a say in choosing new furniture and decorating communal areas of the home to their taste. The standard of the accommodation is improved by the on-going refurbishment of the dining room, designed by a young person. Young people's involvement helps them to feel more settled, gives them some ownership of their lives and increases their confidence in their abilities.

The home continues to work closely with placing authorities and families to offer flexible packages of care, designed to meet each young person's individual needs. The home has learned the importance of carefully considering each new referral to make sure that the home only accommodates those young people whose needs they are likely to be able to meet.

During the inspection of the home, a Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service Inspector visited the home. He confirmed that the premises and management systems complied with the standards required by the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 at the time of his visit.

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*.