

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC063116
Inspection date	26/03/2013
Inspector	Clare Davies
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	09/10/2012
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Service information

Brief description of the service

This children's home is registered to accommodate six children and young people with emotional and behavioural difficulties. Currently all children are under the age of 12 years. The home is run by a private company that operates several other homes in the locality. The company has educational provision to support the children and young people in their care.

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 good with one recommendation for improvement set. This home demonstrates good progress in improving the quality of care and helping children achieve positive outcomes.

Since the last inspection there has been significant input on behaviour management and the de-escalation techniques employed by staff. An instructor for physical intervention has attended staff meetings to discuss specific examples relating to the children in placement. Expert advice has been sought from some therapists and the child and adolescent mental health service. This has enabled the staff team to ensure that the number of incidents requiring physical intervention has reduced. Multi-agency meetings have been held to identify how best to meet the particular needs of some children.

This home has recruited to ensure there is a full staff team. The organisation

undertakes safer recruitment checks to ensure that staff are suitable to care for children and young people. New staff report that they have been fully trained and supported to respond to challenging behaviour. There has been considerable emphasis on the need to avoid using physical intervention and new staff say they have been impressed with the skills staff use to diffuse situations calmly.

The manager has a good grasp of the strengths of the home and undertakes robust monitoring of any incidents, this ensures any patterns and trends are identified. Significant events are notified to Ofsted promptly and the provider takes appropriate action, this often involves liaising with other agencies.

This home provides an environment where children can play and engage with activities that might be suited for a younger child. This opportunity allows children the freedom to experience toys and play that they may have missed out on in their childhood. Creative play and construction toys are much more popular than television and games consoles. Such activities encourage children to express themselves and develop socially and emotionally.

Some children have developed in confidence and maturity by walking to and from school independently. The success of this has enabled them to have some free time at the local shops. Most children are involved with local organisations in the community such as cubs, scouts and youth clubs. This enables them to make friendships outside of the residential home.

The organisation has introduced a new system for assessing risk, across all the homes. The simple use of a traffic light system has been welcomed by the manager and staff. This new system will be reviewed after a short while to evaluate its effectiveness. Senior managers are confident this system will help to identify current and potential risks in order that measures can be taken promptly to reduce them.

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*.