

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC063380
Inspection date	04/02/2013
Inspector	Julian Mason
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	24/07/2012
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Service information

Brief description of the service

This is a privately owned children's home. The home accommodates up to four young people 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**.

The home was judged as good overall at the last full inspection in July 2012 and this grade remains in place. The home was assessed as being fully compliant with the Children's Homes Regulations 2001 and national minimum standards so no requirements or recommendations were made.

Young people continue to benefit from living in a home that consistently supports safe, stable, long-term placements. The management and staff group are well established and constant, which helps sustain young people's relationships and attachments with their main carers. The views of young people are central to the operation of the home. Staff are careful to consult with young people to ensure the right support is provided to help with their day-to-day routines. Young people are invited to contribute their views through one-to-one contact and group meetings. Staff are always available and accessible so they are able to talk to young people regularly and gain an insight into how they are feeling. This results in high levels of consultation about matters that are important to young people and things that can affect their lives.

Staff promote and encourage a culture of positive behaviour between everyone in

the home. Young people are supported to take responsibility for their actions, and more formal measures such as sanctions and restraint are seldom used. Staff use their relationships, skills and training as well as their individual knowledge of each young person to promote patterns of socially acceptable behaviour. Staff listen to young people and always try to prevent difficult behaviour from escalating. For instance, young people are coached and offered alternative ways to behave that encourage self-control and respect. On occasions, staff have to deal with some negative attitudes but continue to explore ways of trying to help young people learn about different approaches. Where formal sanctions have been used, these have not always been recorded in a way that fully supports the evaluation or monitoring of these methods. However, this shortfall has little impact on young people currently as the occurrence of these events is minimal.

Young people's needs in relation to their health and well-being are being comprehensively met. Staff actively engage young people in a range of awareness-raising activities and health education discussions. Young people are well informed about important matters that can affect their good health. Young people continue to benefit from an informed, coordinated and planned approach to meeting their needs in this area.

Young people learn about how to look after themselves in preparation for leaving care and adulthood. The home's approach is not only to help develop practical life skills but to build a young person's confidence and links to the wider community. Staff carefully balance the need to ensure young people are safe against their need to move towards being more self-sufficient and independent. The current focus of the staff team is to help young people develop personal and social responsibility that will help to keep them safe as they get older.

Areas for improvement

Statutory Requirements

This section sets out the actions which must be taken so that the registered person/s meets the Care Standards Act 2000, Children's Homes Regulations 2001 and the National Minimum Standards. The registered person(s) must comply with the given timescales.

Reg.	Requirement	Due date
17B (2001)	ensure that the use of any of any measure of control is recorded in a volume kept for this purpose and includes all matters outlined in this regulation. (Regulation 17B(3)(a-i))	28/02/2013

Recommendations

To improve the quality and standards of care further the service should take account of the following recommendation(s):

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*.