

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC063380
Inspection date	07/03/2014
Inspector	Julian Mason
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	06/08/2013
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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 August 2013. No requirements or recommendations were made.

Young people continue to live in a safe and comfortable home where their needs are being consistently met. The Registered Manager and staff team make considerable efforts to ensure the care and support provided to each young person is matched to their needs and agreed plans. Staff are committed supporting young people to make positive progress in their lives. Young people are enabled to share their views about their care on a daily basis and this helps staff to plan and organise that takes account individual wishes and circumstances.

Young people's safety and protection is prioritised. Staff use well established practices and procedures to help keep young people safe. Detailed assessments are in place which identifies areas of risk and vulnerability for each young person. Staff use this information along with their training to respond to any allegations or suspicions of harm and to report a concern about an individual's safety. The Registered Manager is alert and responsive to the changing dynamics within the resident group especially when someone leaves and a new young person arrives.

Staff regularly talk to young people about keeping themselves safe. They help young people identify and be aware of risks and the protective factors and behaviours necessary to promote their own safety and well-being. This helps young people build confidence in their own skills and an awareness of what they can do to help themselves.

Young people's home environment continues to be monitored regularly, ensuring everyone's safety. Bedroom door alarms have been fitted to improve the monitoring of young people's whereabouts at night-time. The alarms are activated based on individual risk assessments, which are reviewed and update regularly and have the necessary approval for their use by placing social workers. The home has an on-going plan of maintenance and upgrades with a new kitchen being fitted soon and new furniture being purchased for communal areas.

Overall, young people continue to make good progress in comparison to their previous circumstances. There have been some changes to the resident group which has meant that some young people have made more progress than others since their arrival. Young people's behaviour has improved or is improving because staff work together to help reduce risk-taking, offending and anti-social behaviours. Young people who have had previous patterns of being missing from care no longer behave in this way. Staff are also successful at helping young people modify their behaviours and attitudes that supports better social interactions and relationships. Young people who have previously offended and struggled to make sensible choices respond positively to the boundaries and expectations placed upon them. For some young people, this has resulted in them being able to progress towards achieving personal goals such as returning to their family home.

Young people who have experienced significant difficulties with their school attendance and attainment are helped to overcome barriers and difficulties previously experienced. Young people's education and learning is given a high priority, the support provided is based on individual needs and circumstances. Education timetables are developed according to each young person's assessed needs and staff provide tailored support which helps improve and sustain attendance and engagement.

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*.