

## Inspection report for children's home

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| <b>Unique reference number</b> | SC063683          |
| <b>Inspection date</b>         | 23/11/2012        |
| <b>Inspector</b>               | Alicea Churchward |
| <b>Type of inspection</b>      | Interim           |
| <b>Provision subtype</b>       | Children's home   |

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|--------------------------------|------------|
| <b>Date of last inspection</b> | 27/06/2012 |
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## Service information

### Brief description of the service

This is a local authority home that provides care and accommodation for six children with emotional and/or behavioural difficulties.

### The inspection judgements and what they mean

|                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Good progress</b>         | 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. |
| <b>Satisfactory progress</b> | 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.                                  |
| <b>Inadequate progress</b>   | 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**.

The purpose of this visit is to assess the progress made since the time of the last inspection and how any progress has improved the quality of care and outcomes for young people. At the last full inspection was undertaken in June 2012; the home was then found to be good with some outstanding features. At that time, the provider and Registered Manager were asked to take account of requirements and recommendations to improve further the quality of care in the home.

Since that time the home has made adequate progress in addressing the recommendations: a training programme is in place to ensure that staff undertake refresher training in first aid and restraint; notifications have been sent to Ofsted in all but one case; and independent visitors now monitor missing person's reports.

Young people have moved on positively and they remain in touch with the service. As a result the home is in the process of building attachments with a group of the young people new to the service to ensure good progress is made across all outcome areas. Some young people are currently refusing to engage in education. However the manager is optimistic that once young people invest in their placements

attendance will improve further; the home has a good sustained track record of ensuring that this is the case.

The systems for monitoring the home are good the manager regularly monitors practice and any emerging patterns. The provider reports are steadily improving; they are informative and give a good overview of how the home is functioning. However the reports do not currently show that young people, staff and parents have been consulted about the standard of care provided in the home. Reports of the monitoring of the home are sent to Ofsted as required.

Staff report favourably about the induction and training they receive. They said that the manager has an 'open door policy' and that they have access to good support. In one case a shortfall was found in the frequency of supervision but staff said that they can access the manager for support and that this is not impacting upon their ability to carry out their jobs.

Young people are encouraged to take responsibility for their behaviour, in a way that is appropriate to their age and abilities. Positive behaviour is promoted. Staff use de-escalation strategies successfully through their relationships with the young people. Sanctions are few in number and are fair. There have been few restraints in the home; however young people's views are not routinely obtained in the record of restraint.

## 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   |
|--------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| 18<br>(2001) | promote the educational achievement of all children accommodated in the home including regular attendance at school and participation in school activities of children of compulsory school age or regular attendance at college where applicable (Regulation 18 (b)) | 31/03/2013 |
| 33<br>(2001) | ensure that Regulation 33 reports make specific reference as to whether young people and staff are given the opportunity to meet with the visitor in private. (Regulation 33 (4)(a))                                                                                  | 31/03/2013 |

### Recommendations

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

- ensure that the system in place to notify within 24 hours the persons and appropriate authorities of the occurrence of significant events in accordance with Regulation 30 is followed in practice -this is particularly in respect of making notifications to HMCI (NMS 24.1)
- ensure that staff are provided with regular supervision by appropriately qualified and experienced staff (NMS 19.4)
- ensure that where any sanctions or restraint are used, young people are encouraged to have their views recorded in the records kept by the home. (NMS 3.18)

## 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*.