

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	07/03/2014
Inspector	Jo Stephenson
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	06/11/2013
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Service information

Brief description of the service

The home is registered to provide care and accommodation for up to six young people with emotional and/or behavioural difficulties. It is owned and operated by a private organisation.

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 last inspected in November 2013. The judgement at that time was good. Progress since the last inspection is good. The service has appropriately addressed the one requirement that was made at the previous inspection. This means that the home has demonstrated its capacity for continually development. As a result positive outcomes for young people have improved.

The Registered Manager has amended internal monitoring documents to include a comprehensive assessment of the quality of care. Monitoring reports under Regulation 34 include an evaluation of patterns and trends. This means that the practice in the home is effectively reviewed to ensure that the individual needs of young people are met. As a result young people receive comprehensive and personalised care that supports their development. Furthermore the Registered Managers review of the quality of care incorporates consultation with young people. Subsequently young people's opinions and views are assimilated into development plans for the home. This means young people are central to the continual development of the home.

Young people are safe in the home and do not identify bullying as an issue. Nevertheless staff remain alert to the signs of bullying and intimidation. On any occasion when staff observe the potential for young people to be bullied, this behaviour is immediately challenged. Young people enjoy positive relationships with staff and are involved in decisions about their care. Young people regularly participate in one-to-one sessions with staff to discuss their care, future accommodation options and the progress they are making. Internal plans are detailed and regularly reviewed: these are supported by up-to-date statutory placement plans. As a result young people benefit from an integrated approach to addressing their needs. This means that young people make progress in their lives and achievements are celebrated. Subsequently young people experience improved self-esteem and confidence.

Young people are comfortable in raising any complaints they may have and are confident that these will be addressed by staff. Although complaints are rare, records demonstrate that all concerns raised by young people are appropriately responded to and addressed within suitable timescales. This further promotes the welfare and safety of young people.

Staff are supported in their role through regular and effective supervision. In addition staff receive regular training that reflects the individual needs of young people. Since the last inspection, staff have completed updated safeguarding training. The knowledge of staff in relation to this aspect of their practice is vigorously monitored during team meetings. As a result young people work with staff who are skilled in identifying and addressing safeguarding concerns. This means that the welfare and safety of young people is continually promoted.

Partnerships between the staff and schools are professional and effective. Staff challenge barriers to education and work with alternative provisions to ensure young people access suitable education. Because of this young people experience success in education and develop an understanding of the importance of continuing with their learning. Furthermore the personal achievements of young people are celebrated and encouraged in the home. For example, young people organise and participate in charity events to raise awareness of issues that are important to them. As a result young people experience success and develop emotional resilience. This promotes their self-confidence, self-esteem and well-being.

The Registered Manager ensures that comprehensive and detailed environmental and activity risk assessments are in place. Fire safety and health and safety records show that all young people have been inducted to the fire system and have participated in fire drills. This further promotes young people's welfare and safety.

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*.