

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC063813
Inspection date	19/03/2013
Inspector	Elizabeth Barrett
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	11/07/2012
--------------------------------	------------

© Crown copyright 2013

Website: www.ofsted.gov.uk

This document may be reproduced in whole or in part for non-commercial educational purposes, provided that the information quoted is reproduced without adaptation and the source and date of publication are stated.

Service information

Brief description of the service

The home is registered for up to six young people with emotional and 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**.

At the last inspection in July 2012 the overall quality rating of the service was judged as good, with two recommendations made to improve the provision. This home has met the recommendations set and has continued to demonstrate good progress.

This inspection found that young people make good progress in relation to their emotional and social development and individual safeguarding needs. For example, young people attend support sessions with the service's counsellor to address issues such as building appropriate relationships, bullying and resolving conflict. As a result, young people are supported to address specific emotional and well-being concerns and to make positive life-style choices.

Since the last inspection, there have been some changes to the resident group. The staff team has worked hard to settle young people into the home and arrange suitable educational resources. A dedicated education worker has engaged effectively with providers to ensure appropriate schools and college placements for all young people. Consequently young people are settled and benefit from learning opportunities that promote independence and prepare them for adulthood.

Through good levels of consultation, young people's views are listened to and where appropriate acted upon. For example, since the last inspection, areas of the home have been redecorated and refurbished. Young people say they are involved in making decisions about the décor of their home and they like the changes. They feel valued and as a result begin to invest in their surroundings. Comments from one young person include, 'Staff listen to you and are there when you need them.'

The provider has made improvements to staff personnel records to ensure enhanced levels of Criminal Records Bureau disclosures are made and appropriately recorded. The staff rota now includes allocated staff handover time on a shift-by-shift basis, which ensures time to plan for each young person's daily care and support needs. As a result, young people are provided with one-to-one time and the opportunities to participate in activities that they enjoy.

Notifications of significant events are appropriately made with clear records of action taken by the home. For example, work has been undertaken with young people in relation to their involvement in gangs. This means young people have been provided with information and support to raise their awareness of the dangers of gang association, and how to keep themselves safe in the community.

Young people benefit from good relationships with the adults who care for them which help to support a culture of positive behaviour management. Incidents of physical restraint are reduced and the use of sanctions is decreasing through the introduction of individual incentive systems. However, records checked at this visit demonstrate some inconsistencies in relation to behaviour management approaches adopted in the home. Therefore, a recommendation is made to ensure behaviour management strategies are consistently applied.

The Registered Manager regularly reviews and monitors the operations of the home to identify any patterns or trends and to help staff reflect and improve practices in the home. For example, the manager is aware that improvements are required to the home's admission procedures to ensure all young people's placement needs are appropriately assessed and matched. Although there has been no impact on young people currently living in the home as a result of this shortfall, a recommendation is made to ensure a comprehensive compatibility process is completed.

Areas for improvement

Recommendations

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

- ensure the home has a clear policy on managing behaviour which includes supporting positive behaviour, de-escalation of conflicts, discipline, control and restraint, that all staff understand and apply at all times (NMS 3.3)
- ensure the children's home only provides admission to children whose assessed needs they can reasonably expect to meet, with reference to ensuring a robust

compatibility assessment process is undertaken prior to a child's admission to the home. (NMS 11.2)

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*.