

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC064472
Inspection date	20/02/2013
Inspector	Sharron Escott
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	25/10/2012
--------------------------------	------------

© 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 owned by a private organisation and is registered to provide care for up to four young women with emotional or behavioural difficulties.

The home operates a smallholding with vegetable and fruit gardens. A number of animals are kept, including horses, chickens, ducks, pigs, sheep, and various small companion animals, including house cats.

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 full inspection carried out in July 2012, the overall quality rating for the service was judged as good with two requirements and one recommendation set within the inspection report. One requirement and the recommendation have been successfully met. As a result, of this interim inspection one recommendation has been raised relating to ensuring that all new staff undertake the Children's Workforce Development Council's induction standards within 7 days of starting their employment.

The requirement relating to all young people having a up-to-date local authority care and placement plan has not been met. However it is noted that the manager and senior management have made significant efforts to gain these from the local authority. In the absence of receiving these document the manager has compiled personalised care plan's for the young people in placement. These are robust, detailing individual needs, risks and effective behaviour management strategies.

These documents have successfully assisted staff to ensure young people thrive and achieve positive outcomes. Documents reviewed identify sanctions imposed are minimal, and there has been no incident that has required physical or police intervention.

Young people continue to enjoy good quality care, they have made positive attachments and have very good relationships with long serving and experienced staff. Young people said they feel safe, well looked after and the staff are the best thing about the home.

Young people are routinely consulted about the day-to-day running of the home. In addition to regular house meetings and key-worker sessions, young people are given frequent opportunities to reflect on their achievements and areas for improvements within their weekly diaries. Agreed targets are incorporated in personal care plans. This has enabled young people to take responsibility for and learn from their behaviour and recognise their achievements; this has boosted their self-esteem and confidence.

Young people benefit from being actively involved in the local community. The range of activities available ensures young people develop their social skills, exercise regularly and explore new activities of personal interest to them. Young people say they enjoy horse riding and caring for the animals and are looking forward to seeing Madagascar at the local theatre. Young people are advocates for frequent fund raising events. Their participation has included raising money for third world countries. Young people are developing greater empathy and understanding for others and their self-confidence has increased.

The home remains a warm and a homely environment. Young people remain healthy and eat well-balanced diets. They contribute to planning and preparing meals. In addition, young people participate in helping to take care of the home and the animals.

Staff receive annual child protection training updates and all mandatory training. However, not all staff have started within 7 days of employment. Staff receive effective and regular supervision and support, which helps them to meet young people's needs.

The Registered Manager completes regular checks on the conduct of the home, so management monitoring and consequent outcomes for children are good. Patterns and trends are clearly defined and are reviewed by the manager and staff during their monthly meetings. This monitoring has significantly contributed to the care team being proactive and responsive to the changing needs and behaviours of young people to continue to promote positive outcomes.

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
28 (2001)	ensure that a record in permanent form is maintained in respect of each child who is accommodated in a children's home, which includes the information, documents and records specified in Schedule 3 relating to that child and is kept up to date. (Regulation 28 (1) (a)(b))	29/03/2013

Recommendations

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

- ensure new staff undertake the Children's Workforce Development Council's induction standards, commencing within 7 working days of starting their employment and being completed within 6 months. (NMS 18.3)

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*.