

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC065059
Inspection date	18/03/2014
Inspector	Wendy Anderson
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	05/12/2013
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Service information

Brief description of the service

The home is part of the provision operated by the local authority. This home provides care for up to two young people who have emotional and 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 overall rating for this service at its last full inspection on 5 December 2013 was good. At this inspection one requirement was made. This related to staff receiving supervision at the frequency indicated in the homes policies and procedures. This is now happening. This ensures that staff are formally supported in the work they do and provides a forum for open discussion in all areas related to their work.

At the time of the last inspection the home was going through an unsettled period which included considerable damage to the fabric of the home. The staff team have worked very effectively with the young people to drastically improve their behaviours. This involved the staff team in closely examining their own practices, which has made the team stronger. As a result physical restraint has not been used since 28/12/14 and there have been no incidents of young people going missing since the last inspection.

The staff fully involved the young people in working with them to repair the damage they caused and to redecorate. This has given the young people a real sense of ownership of the home. Young people during this inspection said they now regretted their actions. One young person said 'we caused the damage so it's only right we

fixed things'. They also said 'staff are great. They helped me change how I act. Now I behave better and live in a nice home'.

Since the last inspection the home has installed sound proofing in the walls that the property shares with its neighbours. This was due to neighbours raising concerns about the level of noise at certain times. The home quickly acted on these concerns and the necessary work was carried out. The homes' neighbours have praised them for their prompt response. The home has also installed mood lighting in young people's bedrooms to help them settle at bedtime as this had been identified by the team as a trigger point for disruptive behaviour. Some young people are also using meditation techniques to help in this area. One young person is producing a DVD related to the relaxation techniques which has worked for them. This will be shared with other young people in care.

Consultation with young people is very strong at the home. They are involved in all aspects of the care and planning for their future. This was evident throughout the homes' documentation. Young people also attend the Local Authority's Children In Care Council. This inclusive approach empowers the young people and has improved their self-esteem. Within the Local Authority a newsletter is produced for young people in care by young people in care. Young people contribute articles to this and take it in turns to edit and produce the newsletter.

Young people are very positive about the staff who care for them and their time at the home. They stated that there is a 'brilliant' range of activities and they are encouraged to put forward their own ideas for activities. Young people said staff spend a lot of time with them and will take time to explain things to them. Some said this was the first time this had happened to them. Young people feel very safe at the home.

Young people are engaged in working towards their independence. This includes work on independent travel and having to budget their pocket monies to ensure their pet hamsters are well cared for. Caring for a pet has given the young people responsibility which again improves their self-esteem and self-confidence.

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*.