

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	24/01/2013
Inspector	Trevor Hall
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	21/06/2012
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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**.

At the last inspection in June 2012 the overall rating for the service was judged as outstanding, no statutory requirements or recommendations were made. In the intervening period since this last inspection, the home has continued to provide an excellent quality of care. Young people continue to enjoy the benefits of significantly improving outcomes; their education attendance and attainment remain high. Safeguarding is afforded a very high priority and young people are fully involved in their care planning arrangements.

Young people are very positive about the care and support that they receive, and their individual relationships with staff are extremely good. They recognise the work staff do to support them and ensure their safety. Staff provide young people with a consistently high standard of care, structure and routine. All aspects of care planning and practice are highly personalised and tailored to meet the individual needs of the young people, which helps to promote individual identity, difference and equality.

Young people are encouraged to behave well. Each young person has an individualised behaviour management plan that informs staff about known

behaviours and how these are best dealt with. Unauthorised absences by young people are infrequent as are physical interventions, by staff. Positive behaviour is recognised and rewarded and sanctions that are applied when poor behaviour is exhibited are both fair and proportionate. Young people's views and comments, or their refusal to comment following incidents are currently not being routinely recorded.

Staff have a detailed knowledge of the individual young people they care for. They provide personal support tailored to reflect each young person's development and to meet their changing needs. Staff encourage young people to take more responsibility for themselves appropriate to their age and level of understanding. As a result young people have a responsible attitude towards their health and understand the importance of maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

The home continues to be very effectively managed. The home demonstrates continued improvement in the quality of care provided with a clear and focused commitment to service development and achieving positive outcomes for young people. The local authority and manager effectively review and monitor the running of the home and take action to improve the quality of the service provided, routinely seeking the views of young people about their care. The manager has a clear and realistic understanding of the strengths of the service and the areas for further development based on clear evidence. Staff work closely with external professionals to ensure young people's individual needs and views are heard.

Areas for improvement

Recommendations

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

- ensure that where any sanction, disciplinary measure or restraint are used, children 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*.