

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC065789
Inspection date	01/03/2012
Inspector	Chris Scully
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	09/08/2011
--------------------------------	------------

© Crown copyright 2012

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.

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 (March 2011)*.

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.

Service information

Brief description of the service

This is a privately owned children's home registered for three young people with emotional and or behavioural difficulties.

Progress

Since their previous inspection the service is judged to be making **good** progress.

The home was last inspected in August 2011. The overall effectiveness was judged to be outstanding. Following the inspection three recommendations were raised in relation to the home's development plan, maintenance and avoidable hazards.

The home has created a development plan which outlines what the home hopes to achieve in the next 12 months. However, due to a reorganisation of the office, the plan could not be located. This recommendation has not been fully met. This does not directly impact upon the care provided to young people.

Young people are pleased with the décor and maintenance of their bedrooms and bathroom. Young people's safety has been enhanced as a window in one of the bedrooms has been replaced, making it more secure. The issues within the bathroom have been minimised with regards to mould. The bathroom has been redecorated and equipped with bright, homely accessories. Young people's bedrooms are personalised and young people say, 'it's good, I can organise it how I want to.' The home continues to provide a warm, homely environment for all young people.

Young people's safety is enhanced as potential hazards, such as the wedging open of doors have been effectively minimised. Staff are aware of when it is appropriate to hold open doors. This ensures a homely environment, which is balanced with keeping young people safe. Staff are very aware of the fire safety procedures. The Registered Manager and some staff have attended courses in relation to using fire extinguishers. This information has been effectively shared with staff. This enhances young people's safety as staff are informed about the correct use of the extinguishers.

There are no changes to the management or staffing of the home. The home is monitored by the manager and an independent person for the organisation. These provide insight into what the home does well and any areas for improvement. Reports of these visit are made available to staff. However, Ofsted has yet to receive copies of the home's Regulation 34 reports. This is an oversight by the home and does not impact upon the care provided.

Staff are very proud of young people's achievements. They continue to inspire young people to achieve their personal goals. Young people are effectively encouraged and

supported by staff who employ a positive, 'can do' attitude. This increases young people's self esteem and enables them to continue making excellent progress in all aspects of their lives. Young people are particularly proud of their culinary expertise and are thrilled to be undertaking their work placements' in a restaurant. They talk enthusiastically about how they are to prepare lunch for the chef and manager at the end of the week. This opportunity has provided young people with a clear focus about their future career opportunities. They acknowledge it is a long day, 'but I love it! This is what I want to do.'

Young people are more aware of their personal and health care needs. They take pride in their appearance and are always well presented for school. Some young people have made the decision to give up smoking and are working with staff to achieve this. Young people are happy and settled at the home, they refer to other residents as being like their siblings. Young people show increasing maturity in handling difficult situations. They are able to reflect upon incidents and identify why things may have happened, such as being tired. They are able to talk things through with staff and consider how they may react differently in the future. Young people say they are happy here; they get on well with the staff who are 'great.' 'The best home ever.'

Areas for improvement

Recommendations

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

- ensure there is a written development plan in place which identifies any planned changes in the operation or resources of the service (NMS 15.2)
- ensure that reports reviewing the quality of care under Regulation 34 are supplied to Ofsted at six monthly intervals within 28 days of completion. (Volume 5, statutory guidance, paragraph 3.14)