

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	13/03/2014
Inspector	Marian Denny
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	10/12/2013
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Service information

Brief description of the service

This is a privately owned children's home registered for three young people with emotional or 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 purpose of this visit is to assess the progress that has been made in relation to the quality of care and outcomes for young people since the last inspection.

At the last inspection in December 2013 the overall effectiveness of the children's home was judged to be good. Two recommendations were made to effect some improvements in the home. One related to making sure staff were aware of current legislation and government guidance, with specific reference to the missing from home's policy. The second was in relation to ensuring physical restrictions on normal movement within or from the home are only used when it is necessary to safeguard and promote young people's welfare and development. In addition, these measures are only used where agreed with the responsible authority and, if appropriate, the parents. Also such restrictions for one child do not impose similar restrictions on other children.

Since the last inspection, these two recommendations have been met. The Registered Manager has up-dated the missing from home policy and ensured staff are fully conversant with it. The front door is now unlocked so young people are able to enter and leave the home when they wish. As a security measure an alarm has

been fitted to the door so staff are alerted when anyone enters or leaves the home. This ensures no visitors can enter the home without staff's knowledge and young people living in the home are effectively safeguarded.

There have been no changes in the young people living in the home. Staff enjoy extremely good relationships with these young people and work very hard to ensure their health, educational, social and emotional needs are met. Consequently, young people's risky behaviour is minimised.

The manager of the home provides strong, effective leadership and has considerable experience in child care. He fully understands the needs of the young people in his care and very successfully communicates this to his staff. The manager is also well aware of the strengths of the service, areas for development and effectively secures improvements.

The staff team receive good training, are well supported and effectively meet the young people's needs. Qualitative care and support is provided to young people living in the home, as a result young people are making good progress. The manager though is not complacent and is keen to develop staff's expertise, so that the quality of care in the home continually improves with good outcomes achieved for young people.

Staff work very effectively with health and educational professionals to meet young people's needs. Any barriers to young people's full participation in education are addressed and suitable learning opportunities provided. Education providers have been extremely positive about the young people's attendance and engagement in education. Young people get on well with each other and behave appropriately.

Young people are protected from harm by caring and knowledgeable staff. The manager and staff give young people's safety the highest priority. They know exactly what they need to do to protect young people and take decisive action when they have concerns about young people's safety. Young people's individual care plans clearly identify any risks they may face and outline effective strategies to ensure their welfare is promoted and protected. Staff ensure plans for young people's safety are consistently put into practice and fully address their needs. They work effectively with parents, social workers and other professionals to safeguard and promote young people's welfare.

Both the manager and staff are extremely committed to the young people in their care. They demonstrate a good level of understanding, knowledge and a high level of skill in meeting their complex needs on a daily basis. They also have real aspirations for them and work strenuously to promote their development. Staff actively encourage young people to make good choices and enjoy a full range of social opportunities and experiences. Care planning and practice are tailored to meet the individual needs of each young person and takes into account their backgrounds, personalities and any potential risks they face. The manager and staff ensure good quality care is provided in this home. Staff enjoy really good relationships with the young people and do their utmost to help and support them. Consequently, young

people make good developmental progress and achieve good outcomes.

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*.