

## Inspection report for children's home

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| <b>Unique reference number</b> | SC066115        |
| <b>Inspection date</b>         | 26/03/2013      |
| <b>Inspector</b>               | Bill Drumm      |
| <b>Type of inspection</b>      | Interim         |
| <b>Provision subtype</b>       | Children's home |

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| <b>Date of last inspection</b> | 22/08/2012 |
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## Service information

### Brief description of the service

The home is run by a privately-owned company and is registered for a maximum of four young people who have emotional or behavioural difficulties. There is a facility to educate young people on site if they are unable to maintain their current school placement.

### The inspection judgements and what they mean

|                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Good progress</b>         | 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. |
| <b>Satisfactory progress</b> | 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.                                  |
| <b>Inadequate progress</b>   | 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 **satisfactory progress**.

At the last inspection in August 2012, the overall effectiveness rating of the home was outstanding. The home has made satisfactory progress since the last inspection. Young people remain well-cared for and safe. One young person seen at the time of the inspection appeared happy living at the home.

No requirements or recommendations were made at the last inspection. However, two recommendations have been raised as a result of this inspection.

The first recommendation is in relation to the independent monitoring visits that take place each month. The purpose of these visits is to help ensure that the home is run properly and that young people are well cared for. The reports include more information than is necessary to meet the regulation. However, the report for January is inaccurate. It bears the date of 21 February and states there are no complaints recorded in October. This brings into question the accuracy of recording, and the detailed analysis of that recording to effectively monitor the quality of the

service and ensure that continuous improvement is achieved.

The second recommendation is in relation to the care received by young people. Some young people who are placed out of area and who are reaching adulthood are anxious that their wishes and feelings will not be listened to by their placing authority. Whilst the home endeavours to support young people through this transition process the young people themselves do not have access to independent support and advocacy services. This means that young people may not be fully listened to and that decisions about their future may be made without full consideration of their wishes.

Young people have however, continued to make progress. The home's manager indicated that one young person's behaviour has improved since the last inspection and the use of restraint has substantially decreased. Other young people have developed friendships in the local area and will, on occasion, stay overnight at their friends' homes. This helps them to feel part of the local community and to enjoy positive relationships. The home's manager also meets with young people individually every month. This affords them the opportunity to speak in confidence with the manager and to make their needs known. This in turn helps them to feel listened to.

## **Areas for improvement**

### **Recommendations**

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

- review the format used for recording the findings of the Regulation 33 visits carried out by the independent monitoring officer to ensure they provide accurate information (NMS 21.8)
- ensure that each young person has access to advocacy services in order that they are supported to make their views known. (Children Act 1989 Guidance and Regulations Volume 5: Children's Homes; paragraph 2.31)

## 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*.