

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC066242
Inspection date	27/02/2013
Inspector	Chris Scully
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	06/12/2012
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Service information

Brief description of the service

The home is registered to provide care and accommodation for two young people. It may also provide transitional care for young people entering into adulthood for a specified period of time. The home is owned by a private organisation.

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 home was last inspected in December 2012, when the overall effectiveness was judged to be outstanding. Following that inspection two recommendations relating to notifications and repairs to the bathroom and kitchen flooring were raised.

Young people's safety and well-being is enhanced as the home ensures all appropriate people, including Ofsted, are informed of any significant events. This promotes transparency in how the home responds to specific situations. The home continues to work well with other agencies on specific issues, for example, if young people are missing. This means young people return home quickly and safely and additional measures can be implemented to help keep them safe.

Young people are eager to tell visitors about the improvements in the home. They say the new flooring in the bathroom and kitchen is much better and that the kitchen flooring now matches the worktops. This has further improved the homeliness of the setting. However, the front door is not sufficiently secure if it is not locked, which means unauthorised persons may gain access to the property. The risk of this is minimised due to the levels of supervision and vigilance of staff and the home is

taking immediate action to address this. Young people are proud of their home and take pride in helping to maintain it.

Young people talk enthusiastically about their future plans for the home, such as creating a pond in the garden to possibly house terrapins or fish. They are aware of the potential health risks with keeping pets and the importance of good hygiene routines should they handle them. Young people are pleased that they own hamsters and laugh as they explain how they have chewed some of the young people's bedding which has had to be replaced.

Young people feel empowered as they know staff listen to them and their views are taken seriously. This includes respecting their wishes as to who they wish to attend their reviews and the matters they would like to be discussed. Young people are proud of the progress they have made in recent months. They are enjoying education and feel this is going well. For example, progressing from the beginner's class in horse riding to the intermediate level and how they are learning to canter. Others are explain how their courses on hair and beauty will help them secure a career in this sector.

Monitoring of the home remains secure and contributes to the on-going development of the setting. This includes enhancing their consultation with young people. Young people's views are now clearly recorded on all records and documentation. Consequently, they are able to more effectively influence the decisions made about them and have a stronger sense of ownership of what is happening around them. They comment upon how they would like people to be referred to in the records and say, for example, 'me and X (staff) did this', the emphasis being on the young person being first and that their opinions matter.

Young people say they feel safe here. The number of incidents of young people being missing has declined. Young people know that the Registered Manager and staff look for them and want to keep them safe. Young people explain how they gave staff a bus pass they had as they have no use for it as they do not intend to go missing. They say staff have explained how they will keep them safe and they are happy here.

Areas for improvement

Recommendations

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

- ensure the home is well maintained, with particular reference to the lock on the front door. (NMS 10.3)

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*.