

## Inspection report for children's home

---

|                                |                 |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Unique reference number</b> | SC066393        |
| <b>Inspection date</b>         | 15/01/2013      |
| <b>Inspector</b>               | Jo Stephenson   |
| <b>Type of inspection</b>      | Interim         |
| <b>Provision subtype</b>       | Children's home |

---

|                                |            |
|--------------------------------|------------|
| <b>Date of last inspection</b> | 27/09/2012 |
|--------------------------------|------------|

---

© Crown copyright 2013

Website: [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://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.

## Service information

### Brief description of the service

The home provides care and accommodation for up to three young people with emotional and/or behavioural difficulties. This provision is operated by a private organisation as part of a contract with a local authority.

### 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**.

This interim inspection has focused on the progress made by the home since the last inspection in September 2012. The overall judgement was adequate and three requirements and six recommendations were made. These specifically relate to the management and monitoring of the home and to improving the quality of care and outcomes for young people. The home has made satisfactory progress and previous requirements and recommendations have been addressed, although two further requirements have been made.

Since the last inspection, the number of incidents of young people missing from the home has reduced. Staff have established robust partnership working arrangements with local police agencies and safeguarding teams. This means that risk assessments for young people are integrated and detailed. Personalised risk assessments are discussed with young people during placement plan sessions, and amended to reflect changes in circumstances. Regular missing from home and safeguarding strategy meetings take place with other professionals. These consider exploitation and other

significant risks for individual young people. As a result, the developed intervention plans promote the safety and welfare of young people.

The home has made substantial improvements in the recording of information in case files for young people, although some shortfalls remain in the signing and dating of statutory documents and internal plans. Case files include detailed education and health information that provide young people with a clear overview of their progress, and the developments they have made. For example, case files now contain personal education plans, detailing actions and mediations introduced to reduce barriers to education. Documents identify alternative placements, when necessary, and therefore case records contribute to young people's understanding of their life.

Young people participate in regular one-to-one sessions with allocated key workers that reflect their individual needs. Young people confirm they are involved in their care and say they contribute to regular young people's meetings. Therefore, young people are involved in the development of the home. Staff have made significant and noteworthy improvements in monitoring case records and internal plans. For example, managers audit case files each month and specify tasks for key workers to complete. As a result, support and intervention plans are continually reviewed and updated. This means that young people's plans accurately reflect changes in their needs.

Since the last inspection, the registered provider has appointed a new manager who is now registered with Ofsted. This appointment has brought about a significant improvement in the quality and frequency of formal supervision for staff. Staff say they feel involved in the development of the home and are fully supported in their role. The manager ensures that the policies and procedures of the home are being adhered to. Mandatory training has been completed by all staff with additional complementary training planned to improve staff knowledge and skills. This means that young people can benefit from working with staff that are trained to recognise and meet their individual needs.

The Registered Manager has introduced robust monitoring systems in the home that enables the quality of care and outcomes for young people to be more effectively evaluated. This means that the home is better able to assess the impact it has on young people. The development plan for the home usefully identifies how the home will adapt to reflect the changing needs of young people. Nevertheless, monitoring reports made under Regulation 34 are not provided to Ofsted.

## **Areas for improvement**

## Statutory Requirements

This section sets out the actions which must be taken so that the registered person/s meets the Care Standards Act 2000, Children's Homes Regulations 2001 and the National Minimum Standards. The registered person(s) must comply with the given timescales.

| Reg.         | Requirement                                                                                                                                                                                 | Due date   |
|--------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| 28<br>(2001) | maintain in respect of each child who is accommodated in the children's home case records in a permanent form which is signed and dated by the author of each entry (Regulation 28 (1) (c)) | 25/02/2013 |
| 34<br>(2001) | supply to the HMCI a report in respect of any review conducted by him for the purposes of monitoring the matters set out in Schedule 6 at appropriate intervals. (Regulation 34 (2))        | 25/02/2013 |

## Recommendations

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

## 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*.