

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC067839
Inspection date	21/03/2013
Inspector	Elizabeth Barrett
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	02/05/2012
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Service information

Brief description of the service

This children's home is registered to provide care and accommodation for up to two young people of either gender with emotional and behavioural difficulties. The home is privately owned and the organisation operates other children's homes in the area.

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 **satisfactory progress**.

At the last inspection in May 2012, the overall rating for the service was judged as good with two recommendations set within the inspection report. Since June 2012 the home has been closed for refurbishment. This inspection focuses on whether the children's home meets its statutory requirements in order to maintain its registration and is ready to accept placements. The home has met in full the recommendations set at the previous visit.

Following the last inspection improvement has been made to the provider's recruitment processes. Criminal Record Bureau checks have been updated and a new system is in place that alerts the provider to checks that are subject to renewal. The Registered Manager has attended training in safer recruitment and vetting of staff to ensure all recruitment processes are in line with requirements. In addition, the home has a development plan in place which includes areas for development such as staff practice and promoting achievement for young people. As a result, this home demonstrates a commitment to providing a quality service and to improving outcomes for young people.

The provider has made extensive improvement to the interior of the home. For example, the home is decorated and refurbished to a high standard including good quality carpets, furniture, and fittings in all areas. The kitchen and utility areas have been remodelled with new equipment purchased. This will provide young people with a homely and comfortable environment to live in.

A core team of suitable and experienced staff including the Registered Manager and deputy manager are currently working elsewhere within the company. Staff are available to take up their positions at this home upon the admission of young people. A robust recruitment and selection process is also taking place to recruit additional staff to ensure young people will benefit from a diverse staff team who can meet their individual needs. The company's induction and training programme supports new and existing staff to become operational following the assessment and acceptance of a suitable referral.

The Registered Manager has good knowledge and understanding of statutory regulations and guidance to ensure compliance in practice. There are detailed policies and procedures in place which are available to staff. Procedures and guidance on all matters relating to young people's safety and record keeping have not changed, and the provider is currently updating risk assessments to ensure young people's safety and welfare is effectively promoted in the home.

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*.