

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC068032
Inspection date	18/03/2014
Inspector	Judith Longden
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	29/01/2014
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Service information

Brief description of the service

This children's home is operated by a private provider and is registered to provide care and accommodation for up to six children of the same sex with emotional and/or behavioural difficulties. It is part of a service providing specialist care for young people with complex needs.

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**.

This home was judged as good at the last full inspection in January 2014. In the short time since that inspection the home has demonstrated continued improvement in the quality of care and the outcomes for young people.

The home has addressed and met the requirement and recommendation made at the previous inspection. These were in relation to the monitoring of the home and the review of care. The Registered Manager has reviewed the format of the monthly monitoring records and the review report, currently compiled at six-monthly intervals. These provide an evaluative review of the care and progress of young people. Reports are sent to Ofsted as required. The Registered Manager is aware of the revised timeframes for these reports and these will now be submitted every three months. This means there is effective monitoring of the welfare of young people.

Young people enjoy living in this home. They say there has been an increase in the range of activities available to them within the home and the local community. There are strong links with local clubs and groups which enables young people to access

varied activities. As a result, young people enjoy a range of leisure pursuits and hobbies.

Young people are increasingly involved in their care and in the running of the home. The regular house meetings provide a forum where young people can raise any concerns, discuss their ideas and share their views. They are able to make suggestions for new equipment and resources within the home. For example, they requested some gym equipment such as a rowing machine. They are encouraged to research the costs and availability of such items. The gym equipment has now been purchased. This means they learn new skills in addition to improving the resources in the home. A number of items of furniture has also been purchased for the home and this has improved the environment for young people.

There has been a significant reduction in the number of episodes of young people going missing from the home. This is because the home works closely with the police and with young people to encourage appropriate risk-taking while keeping young people safe. Information is shared appropriately and young people maintain contact with the home. As a result they enjoy increased freedoms and socialise with friends. The Registered Manager said, 'it is too easy not to do something because of the risks rather than manage the risks and do it'.

Staff benefit from a range of training and development opportunities. These include workshops as part of staff meetings in addition to courses supplied by the organisation and external agencies. Recently staff have developed an understanding of legislation, health and safety and drug awareness. This means they are able to continue to meet the needs of young people and keep them safe.

The home has improved the format of a number of records and documents including the young people's placement plans. These are more age appropriate and provide evidence of the difference this home makes and the progress made by young people.

No requirements or recommendations are made as a result of this inspection.

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*.