

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC068803
Inspection date	07/01/2013
Inspector	Thomas Webber
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	25/09/2012
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Service information

Brief description of the service

This home is one of several homes belonging to the organisation. The home is registered to provide care and accommodation for up to a maximum of four young people, who may have emotional and behavioural difficulties.

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**.

The overall quality rating for this service was judged as good at the last full inspection in September 2012.

At that time, some outstanding features were identified in the leadership and management of the home and the safeguarding of young people. Only one recommendation for improvement was identified. This related reviewing the arrangements for young people to have unsupervised time. The manager has reviewed the policy and practice and, where it is deemed appropriate and safe, this has been implemented. Some young people now have more free time which enables them to make choices while being kept safe.

The home continues to maintain a high ratio of staff on duty to the number of young people accommodated. This ensures that the individual and collective needs of young people are well catered for. There has been limited staff turnover which has not had a detrimental effect on the continuity and consistency of care provided to young

people. The organisation continues to ensure that staff are appropriately trained. Six staff have achieved the level 3 Children and Young People's Workforce Diploma or equivalent. Two members of staff are due to commence this qualification and the three recently appointed staff will also undertake this course once they have successfully completed the Children's Workforce Development Council's induction standards. Staff spoke very positively about the level of support they receive and the training opportunities available to them.

There have been no incidents of young people going missing since the last inspection. Historically, staff take appropriate action in this event which ensures young people return safely. Incidents of bullying and intimidation have continued to cause problems within the home. This has led to complaints and an increase in sanctions and physical restraint. The complaint was promptly addressed and positive steps have been taken in response to bullying. The continuing suitability of the placement has been reviewed, where necessary, and an alternatives found, where appropriate.

Staff are committed to ensuring that young people attend their relevant educational placements. Where there are difficulties, staff liaise well with the education and placing authorities to secure alternative placements which meet the specific needs of individual young people. Staff also assist young people to maintain and increase contact with their families.

Very positive and warm relationships exist between staff and young people. Staff are well aware of the needs of young people and are very quick to respond to their changing emotions. Where young people commented, they spoke very fondly of the care and support provided and their overall experience of living at the home. They felt that the staff assisted them to manage their behaviour much better. And that their continued to support with education enables them to strive towards reaching their educational potential.

The home continues to benefit from effective leadership. It continues to maintain a good quality of care and outcomes for young people. No requirements or recommendations for improvement have been identified at 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*.