

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	13/02/2014
Inspector	Liz Driver
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	20/08/2013
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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 **good progress**.

At the last full welfare inspection carried out in August 2013 the setting was judged as good. Three recommendations were made. The service has made good progress.

The first recommendation concerned ensuring that children communicate their views on aspects of their care and support particularly with regard to their behaviour management plans. The service has made good progress and additions to records now show those children willing to contribute doing so. Key worker sessions are the main meetings where behaviour management plans are discussed individually with children. Children are encouraged to contribute and sign that they agree, and will engage in strategies and targets put in place. Children also contribute to their placement reviews so they know the details of their placement plan.

The second recommendation concerned ensuring that the system to monitor the quality and accuracy of record keeping has all necessary information before deciding which action to be taken. The registered manager has improved the monitoring of records such as incident reports to ensure sufficient detail is included. The manager monitors these records on a daily basis. This ensures all safeguarding concerns are

progressed through the correct channels.

The final recommendation concerned ensuring that all staff are familiar with the home's policies on record keeping, trained to maintain them and to understand the need to be careful, objective and clear when making records. The staff have been reminded of the importance of detailed record keeping and more recent records show an improvement.

Since the last inspection the home has been subject to considerable redecoration and refurbishment. Children, in the main, respect their surroundings and enjoy the facilities the home has to offer; such as a well- resourced games room, fitness room and ample outside space. The unmade access road has suffered from the recent severe weather and is in need of work to repair the many potholes now visible. The manager is in contact with the landowner and local council to try and get this resolved.

Children continue to benefit from the consistency of being cared for by a stable staff team. The good relationships between staff and children have resulted in behaviours for the majority of children improving and those who are going through particularly difficult time are very well supported by the staff and other professionals. Training that is more focused on de-escalation techniques when managing challenging behaviours has resulted in decreasing numbers of physical interventions taking place. Individual behaviour management risk assessments have been updated to include the new direction of de-escalation.

Despite some very challenging behaviours from time to time, staff do not give up on the children and provide consistent support which has seen good progress in individual outcomes such as engaging in education and decreasing incidents of running away. Staff support each other extremely well during challenging times.

Raising children's self- esteem is positively influenced by the staff who offer encouragement so they successfully engage in the local community through accessing activities such as army cadets, where they can meet other children. Children who previously had difficulty socialising now do so successfully.

Professionals involved in the children's lives feel the service offers excellent support and is a service that thinks about and acts on constructive plans which children take on board. Feedback also confirms that the emotional, educational and physical needs of children are met. One social worker stated that a child has settled greatly during their time at the service.

The staff contact families every week to give updates of how their child is doing and this results in very good relationship being built and joint working on delivery of care; such as maintaining of boundaries in relation to behaviour management strategies.

Attendance at suitable educational establishments has seen young people progressing well gaining skills and qualifications they can use in adult life. The staff support children so they successfully attend and achieve in their chosen course.

The home is well managed and has consistent leadership which has aspirations for the young people and expects high standards from members of staff. Good standard quality assurance procedures enable the home to make continued improvements, in line with recent and future changes to legislation.

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*.