

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC355755
Inspection date	27/02/2013
Inspector	Malcolm Stannard
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	04/12/2012
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Service information

Brief description of the service

This privately owned children's home is registered to provide care and accommodation for one young person with emotional and/or 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 inspection in December 2012, the overall effectiveness of the home was judged to be adequate. There were no requirements or recommendations made. The home had been closed for a period of time and had been operational for only a week at the time of that visit. Since the last inspection the manager and staff at the home have made effective progress operationally as well as in relation to the engagement and development of young people.

The staff team who were formed at the end of November 2012, are being supported to continually develop. A formal supervision structure is in place and appropriate training packages to enhance knowledge and skills have been identified and commenced.

Young people have benefitted from the continued input of staff to promote their engagement with the opportunities offered. There has been a positive increase in interactions by young people and they are now engaging in day to day life at the home and in some of the development work planned for them. Young people have increased their participation in activities and carrying out required domestic tasks such as shopping.

Plans for young people have by necessity become highly individually focussed with short term targets. Young people still decline to interact fully with some areas of work planned such as formal education and aspects of health provision. Targeted sections of work which concentrate on relevant subjects such as preparing to live independently and fire safety are undertaken.

The manager and staff have been able to increase the access available to local professional services and can now call on advice and support from a range of provisions. Contact has been made with the local missing person's coordinator and staff have a good understanding of the issues surrounding possible sexual exploitation.

Positive and regular communication is in place with young people's social workers. This ensures that plans can be reviewed and amended where necessary on a consistent basis. Reviews and meetings are held regularly due to the constantly changing needs of the young people at the home. Additional meetings with the looked after children nurse and mental health support professionals are also held. Young people are involved in reviews of their needs and regularly read and comment on progress reports and pathway plans.

There have been some instances of disruption and damage caused to the home by young people. The staff team work hard to diffuse these situations with minimal use of physical intervention. They support young people following an occurrence by reassuring them that they will continue to work with them. Incentives are in place to encourage positive behaviour including the earning of short periods of free time out of the home. This has proved popular with young people and has been effective in some cases. Young people spoke positively about the home and staff members.

Good progress has been made by the manager and staff team in forming and setting out the direction desired and methods of working to be undertaken in the home. There has been relentless promotion of work to increase positive outcomes for young people, even when the young people themselves have failed to engage fully.

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*.