

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	09/01/2013
Inspector	Suzanne Hogben
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	24/07/2012
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Service information

Brief description of the service

The children's home is run by a private organisation and is registered to provide care and accommodation for two young people with emotional 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 July 2012, the overall quality rating of the service was adequate, with eight requirements and six recommendations. This home demonstrates continued improvement in the quality of care provided with a clear and focused commitment to improving outcomes for young people. The home has suitably addressed all the requirements and all of the recommendations from the previous inspection.

The Registered Manager has now reviewed the Statement of Purpose and children's guide and both documents now contain the details required by legislation. Young people now have the telephone number and address of HMCI should they wish to make contact. The provision of a telephone for the use of young people means that they are now able to make calls if they need to, without having to ask members of staff for access to a telephone.

The manager and her staff are proactive in their promotion of healthy lifestyle for young people. The manager ensures that shortfalls in service from such people as health providers or social workers are addressed and staff are good advocates for young people. Young people agree with this saying, 'I know they want the best for

me.' As a result, young people are able to see that the staff work jointly with other professionals and significant people in their lives to provide the best possible care they can.

The manager has made significant changes to the training of staff in child protection and all staff are now clear on how to deal with safeguarding issues. In addition, significant improvement in considering the individual needs of young people has led to the cessation of the use of door alarms. If such measures are required this is now considered in the individual placement plan of each young person. Young people value this and feel the home is more homely because of it.

Young people in the home are educated and supported to eat a healthy diet. However, they are of an age where they are able to make their own decisions and purchase their own food. Staff are inventive in trying to promote healthy eating with the planning of menus and shopping with young people. They try to have meals together to promote mealtimes as a social occasion. Young people say they know what to eat to remain healthy, but still wish to choose their own food.

To ensure that young people leave the home with a clear idea of their time in care, the manager has developed a system of monthly reporting. This summarises each month what young people have done in the home, in their education or in activities. Young people have daily access to their files if they wish and the summaries offer a good overview of their time in care. This helps them make sense of their life in care when they move on from the home. The summaries, together with regular monitoring, enable the manager to evaluate and monitor the outcomes for young people.

There is a detailed development plan for the home which is due for review in May. The plan identifies ways to strengthen the monitoring systems in the home. It also aims to ensure that staff receive training which fits the needs of young people and explore ways to involve staff more in understanding legislation and policies and their role. Young people feel safe in this home and have excellent relationships with staff. They enjoy planned events and completing activities with staff. They also appreciate the support and opportunities they have and make good progress, particularly in the management of their behaviour and the development of social confidence. There are no requirements or recommendations arising from 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*.