

## Inspection report for children's home

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| <b>Unique reference number</b> | SC356864        |
| <b>Inspection date</b>         | 24/01/2013      |
| <b>Inspector</b>               | Sarah Oldham    |
| <b>Type of inspection</b>      | Interim         |
| <b>Provision subtype</b>       | Children's home |

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| <b>Date of last inspection</b> | 24/09/2012 |
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## Service information

### Brief description of the service

The home is a privately run children's home, which provides care and accommodation for up to two young people who may have emotional and/or behavioural difficulties.

### The inspection judgements and what they mean

|                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Good progress</b>         | 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. |
| <b>Satisfactory progress</b> | 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.                                  |
| <b>Inadequate progress</b>   | 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 home received its full inspection in September 2012 when the overall effectiveness was judged to be adequate. At the previous inspection three requirements and two recommendations were made. Following the inspection all of the requirements and recommendations have been addressed. The new manager of the home has demonstrated a positive commitment to improve the overall running of the home to achieve positive outcomes for young people. Placement plans are detailed and contain up-to-date information. This ensures that staff have the appropriate information to effectively support young people, including support with managing medication, promoting education and with preparation towards independence. Young people contribute their wishes and views to their placement plans. This enables them to have a good overview of their individual targets and see the progress that they are making.

Staff are proactive in supporting young people to achieve their individual goals. This includes encouraging and supporting them with their attendance at education, enabling them to meet, wherever possible, their educational targets and have a good

understanding of areas for on-going development.

The manager has made a number of improvements to outcomes for young people; including supporting young people with transition into independent living and actively encouraging young people to engage in activities within the local community. This enables young people to develop a range of skills and knowledge to equip them for when they move onto independent living. It also enables them to have a range of interests and to gain new friends in a way that is positive and appropriate.

The manager undertakes comprehensive monitoring of the home to ensure that all information in place is current and accurately reflects the current needs of the young people. This ensures that the young people benefit from living in a home that provides appropriate support to them so they develop a range of skills and knowledge. Development plans and six monthly monitoring reports provide a clear basis to demonstrate how the service meets the needs of young people and the areas for on-going development to secure further improvements to outcomes experienced by young people.

There have been minor alterations to the staff team with some new staff joining the home. All receive appropriate induction and training to ensure that they provide effective care and support. However, due to agreed ratio of staffing, not all staff left in charge of the home have substantial relevant experience of working within the home. This could impact on the level of care and support provided in some situations. To provide additional support, the home has an on-call system to help address this.

The manager has submitted an application to Ofsted to be the Registered Manager and this application is currently being processed. The manager ensures that all staff has regular supervision and they continue to be positive about their roles in providing care and support to young people.

## **Areas for improvement**

### **Recommendations**

To improve the quality and standards of care further the service should take account of the following recommendation(s):

- ensure that staff members who are placed in charge of the home have substantial relevant experience of working in the home. (NMS 17.5)

## 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*.