

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	18/02/2014
Inspector	Stella Henderson
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	30/04/2013
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Service information

Brief description of the service

The children's home is owned and operated by a local authority. It is registered to provide care and accommodation for six young people who experience behavioural and emotional 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**.

The overall inspection judgement was adequate at the last full inspection in April 2013, with two requirements and five recommendations made for improvement. The manager has attended to these issues and consequently the home has made good progress in: monitoring of the conduct of the home, ensuring behaviour management measures are reasonable, responding quickly to avoidable hazards, supporting young people with their education and maintaining confidentiality. A recommendation for the manager to build on and maintain consistency in good practice is also met.

Work is still in progress in effectively capturing young people's views in documentation. This recommendation is repeated to ensure that the innovative 'journey to success' evaluative record includes young people's views on their achievements.

Since the last inspection the quality of the monitoring process has significantly improved. This periodic review now more clearly demonstrates consultation with young people, reflection on practice and clear objectives. Young people have

benefited from this as they experience improved standards of care and greater individualised planning.

Young people continue to feel safe in the home. Although they have some minor 'moans and groans' about the home they say they like living here and they get along well with each other. Young people continue to enjoy a wide range of activities. This includes organised trips to activity centres for example and impromptu events such as a St Valentine's Day event.

The home manages the challenges of adolescence well. As a result young people show a reduction in incidents of going missing and high risk behaviours. Staff provide very effective support for young people when they are struggling to cope with personal disappointment, trauma and upheaval. As a result the majority of young people continue to do very well in their education, remaining engaged despite significant events in their lives and on target to achieve their predicted grades.

Staff are pro-active in securing appropriate education or work placements for young people beyond school-leaving age. They persevere in keeping young people interested and involved in the options available for them. Partnership working is a particular strength of the home in this respect. Staff ensure that young people take the opportunity to extend their wider learning and acquire new skills, through horse riding lessons, for example.

Young people continue to benefit from a stable staff team and management who are taking a strong lead in improving the quality of care. Staff are competent and demonstrate a good knowledge of young people's needs and plans. They work well together to ensure that young people benefit from consistency in practice.

Areas for improvement

Recommendations

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

- continue to develop initiatives to ensure that all children communicate their views on all aspects of their care and support. (NMS 1.3)

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*.