

Inspection report for children's home

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| <b>Unique reference number</b> | SC361789        |
| <b>Inspector</b>               | Janice Hawtin   |
| <b>Type of inspection</b>      | Interim         |
| <b>Provision subtype</b>       | Children's home |

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| <b>Registered person</b>         | Cornwall Council                   |
| <b>Registered person address</b> | County Hall TRURO Cornwall TR1 3AY |

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|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Responsible individual</b>  | Katherine Margaret Brown |
| <b>Registered manager</b>      | Julie Anita Walsh        |
| <b>Date of last inspection</b> | 12/08/2014               |

|                        |            |
|------------------------|------------|
| <b>Inspection date</b> | 25/02/2015 |
|------------------------|------------|

|                                          |      |
|------------------------------------------|------|
| Previous inspection                      | good |
| Enforcement action since last inspection | None |

## This inspection

This home was judged good at the last full inspection. At this interim inspection Ofsted judge that it has **improved effectiveness**.

Since the last inspection in October 2014 there has been steady progress in developing care practice. One requirement and 3 recommendations made at the previous inspection have been effectively dealt with and have contributed to this development.

Attention to improving the environment has seen considerable investment particularly in fully refurbishing the bathrooms used by young people. These are now suited to the needs of the young people living in the home and offer choices of washing and bathing options. The outside play area has new safer play specialist flooring fitted. As well as being a bright and colourful addition to this area the new surface cushions young people should they fall over and reduces the likelihood of injury.

Managers and staff have removed some unnecessary health and safety signs and instructions to staff from the walls. This makes the environment more consistent with what would be found in a home. New curtains have been fitted throughout; these were made locally with fabric chosen by young people. Curtains have adapted fittings so that they can be removed easily for washing or put back up if young people take them down. Improvements to the home are ongoing, there is a maintenance and refurbishment plan in place. A maintenance worker is dedicated to decorating, repair and refurbishment to provide an appropriate practical and homely environment to young people.

Leaders have reviewed and reformatted young people's care plans. Each now contains a summary of presenting issues and development needs in specific key areas which are individual to each young person. Consultation and approval by parents in producing these plans improves the quality of information, demonstrating the value of work in partnership with significant stakeholders. Care plans are now

clear, concise and meaningful. They contribute to understanding the life of the young person, their care and development needs. Alongside attention to cultural and identity needs, the staff have considered young people's ability to comprehend these issues so that any specific provision or intervention is meaningful and benefits young people. A parent commented 'he is definitely in the right place and well cared for, we are fully involved in the plans for him and finalise any decisions made'.

There has been a significant reduction in the night time monitoring of young people, this improves their privacy and dignity. Monitoring is now based on individual risk assessment and specific needs. These improved arrangements are monitored by a senior member of staff to ensure the levels of supervision remain appropriate and do not compromise the comfort or safety of young people.

The care provided continues to be young people centred and responsive to their presenting needs. Young people continue to progress and in a short space of time some have made significant progress. This includes improvements to continence, independence skills and involvement in community activities. The staff's understanding of young people's particular vulnerabilities and the carefully considered care provided reduces anxiety and this has a direct impact on improving their behaviour. Where there are concerns about young people the staff team work in partnership with other professionals to understand the behaviour and effect change as quickly as possible. Parents are positive about the care provided, one made the following comment about her son: 'the staff are fantastic with him, without them I don't know where he would be, he is doing well in school and his emotional understanding is developing'.

Young people benefit from the home's consultation with education providers. Work in partnership allows for development targets to be shared and addressed in both education and care settings to maximise progress. This productive relationship also aids smooth transitions to adult services as young people are able to continue at the school once their accommodation changes.

## Information about this children's home

The service is run by the local authority. The home is registered to provide care and accommodation for up to ten young people of either sex with emotional and behavioural difficulties and/or learning disabilities.

The home is purpose-built. It is situated on the site of a local authority special school and has access to some of the school's facilities.

## Recent inspection history

| Inspection date | Inspection type | Inspection judgement |
|-----------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| 12/08/2014      | Full            | good                 |
| 21/01/2014      | Interim         | good progress        |
| 20/06/2013      | Full            | good                 |
| 14/02/2013      | Interim         | inadequate progress  |

## **What inspection judgements mean**

At the interim inspections we make a judgement on whether the home has improved in effectiveness, sustained effectiveness, or declined in effectiveness since the previous full inspection. This is in line with the *Inspection of children's homes: framework for inspection*.

## **Information 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 main strengths, any areas for improvement, including any breaches of regulation, and any failure to meet national minimum standards. The judgements included in the report are made against the framework of inspection for children's homes.