

## Inspection report for children's home

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| <b>Unique reference number</b> | SC366343         |
| <b>Inspection date</b>         | 05/03/2014       |
| <b>Inspector</b>               | Valerie Shephard |
| <b>Type of inspection</b>      | Interim          |
| <b>Provision subtype</b>       | Children's home  |

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| <b>Date of last inspection</b> | 17/12/2013 |
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## Service information

### Brief description of the service

This home is a detached property situated in a residential area. It is the only children's home owned by a private provider. The home is registered to provide care and accommodation to four children with 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 **good progress**.

This interim inspection has focused on the progress made by the home since the last inspection when the overall judgement was outstanding. The home has made good progress and has demonstrated continued improvement in the quality of care and outcomes for young people. The one recommendation for improvement made at the previous inspection has been addressed. This related to ensuring the home notified appropriate authorities of significant events in accordance with regulations. There has only been one event requiring notification since the previous inspection which the manager dealt with promptly in accordance with requirements.

Overall, young people continue to make good progress and achieve positive outcomes. A large majority of young people in the home are attending education or training and are involved with their learning. Where young people struggle to engage, the home encourages them to attend and achieve and where appropriate seeks alternative provision. There is evidence of robust challenge from the manager to ensure services are available to young people. As a result there is an increase in young people's options for future employment and training prospects.

For most young people there is better engagement in the running of the home and improved participation in group activities than previously. Staff comment that young people like to come home for their tea and enjoy participating with staff on individual and group activities. Where young people have a plan of rehabilitation, the home has successfully worked to achieve this aim. One social worker said, 'we have all worked well to enable this young person to successfully return to their family. It's been a pleasure working with the staff and I would happily approach the home for another young person should the need arise.'

Young people continue to benefit from consistent care provided by a very stable, well-trained and committed staff team. Relationships between young people and staff are excellent and young people are very positive about the care they receive. It is evident that young people feel comfortable in talking to staff about their worries and seek out their favourite individuals for this purpose. One young person commented, 'staff listen to me here.'

Staff maintain a positive attitude despite having to deal with some very challenging situations. They work very well with young people and have seen overall improvements in their behaviour. For example, missing from home events have significantly improved over the months as young people settle and learn to trust staff. Similarly, incidents of criminality have also declined as young people learn to talk to staff and reflect on their behaviour. Young people typically do not complain; there have been no complaints for a number of months. This is because they feel able to raise any niggles on an informal basis as they arise.

Behaviour management continues to be a strong feature in the home with staff adopting a positive approach with young people. Staff look for incidents of young people behaving well and reward them immediately with praise or a small gift. Staff are effective in de-escalating potential difficult situations and generally back off from young people giving them space to calm themselves. Consequently, restraint is rarely used in the home as young people are given the opportunity to reflect on and modify their behaviour.

Leadership remains robust and proactive in relation to embracing change and driving forward improvement. The manager keeps up to date with new legislation and practice and shares learning with the staff team. Individual staff take lead roles in learning about issues which negatively impact on young people. Examples of topics include domestic violence, sexual abuse and child sexual exploitation. They hold a key role in keeping up to date with developments and sharing their learning with their colleagues. As a result of the knowledge gained, staff are better able to care for young people who have experienced these issues.

## 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*.