

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC372117
Inspection date	07/02/2013
Inspector	Jacqueline Malcolm
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	07/11/2012
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Service information

Brief description of the service

This is one of a number of children's homes operated by a private company. The home is registered to provide care and accommodation for up to two young people who may need support with emotional and 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**.

The home was judged to be good overall at the last full inspection in November 2012. One requirement and several recommendations were raised at that inspection to further improve services for young people.

The manager is now registered with Ofsted. The home has maintained a good quality of care and outcomes for young people under their leadership and management. This is despite some staffing changes at the home. Young people make positive comments about their life at the home and said, 'the staff are good. They know what they are doing' and 'It's a nice place to live, I would recommend this place.' This shows that young people are cared for by staff who have the competence and experience to meet their needs. Young people are actively engaged in a range of activities that promote the development of their confidence and skills. They are helped to understand their histories, make future plans and improve their life chances.

Young people's social and independence skills are enhanced by good quality guidance and support. They are taking responsibility for learning life skills, such as

budgeting, preparing meals and developing appropriate relationships. Some young people are preparing for the world of work and are pursuing their educational goals. This gives them a sense of achievement and helps them to develop positive self-esteem. Young people say that they are involved in the development of their independence plans. Formal pathway plans for eligible young people are in progress with contributions from the home and the placing authority.

Suitable interim arrangements to ensure the safe storage of medication, including controlled medication are in place. Robust monitoring of medication records ensures clear and up to date information. Although there are no young people who have health needs that require medication, their good health and well-being is promoted by these improvements.

Young people say that the home is a warmer place to live now that staff have access to heating controls on radiators and can regulate the temperature at all times.

Young people understand the home's routines and boundaries. They know that bullying behaviour is unacceptable because staff are vigilant about this and discourage this behaviour through discussions with them. Young people are rarely sanctioned or restrained. This supports good behaviour management practices and encourages young people to develop socially acceptable and responsible behaviour. The electricity supply in young people's bedrooms is no longer restricted. This eliminates institutional practice that young people say no longer exists. One young person said, 'They never turn it off all night.'

Young people's safety and welfare continues to have a high profile. Young people confirm that they feel safe. Good partnership work with safeguarding agencies, such as the police, contributes to risk management practices that effectively protect young people. This has resulted in reduced missing from home incidents and risk taking behaviours. An allegation of an historical inappropriate restraint is currently being investigated by the provider. This demonstrates that the home is proactive in addressing safeguarding concerns.

The home has capacity for continued improvement. There were no requirements or recommendations raised at 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*.