

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC372611
Inspection date	07/03/2012
Inspector	Julian Parker
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	30/11/2011
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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 (March 2011)*.

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.

Service information

Brief description of the service

This private children's home provides medium to long term care for up to two children with emotional or behavioural difficulties.

Progress

Since their previous inspection the service is judged to be making **good** progress.

At the last inspection in November 2011, the overall quality rating for the service was good, with one requirement and one recommendation made. The home's manager has subsequently produced and forwarded to the regulator an updated Statement of Purpose and improved the contents of the young persons guide to inform residents how they may contact Ofsted.

Young people enjoy effective support from their staff to ensure that any health related needs are addressed correctly. Young people in education receive ongoing encouragement and incentives to attend school regularly. They receive practical support getting to school, in class, and with their homework to promote learning. Placement plans receive ongoing review and attention, ensuring they accurately reflect the current issues in the young person's life. They provide a detailed pen picture of each young person and set out how to meet individual needs effectively. The behaviour management aspects of plans receive thorough assessment upon admission and revision following any incidents. Appropriately implemented risk assessments ensure that all behaviour is managed consistently and safely. Young people are encouraged to form trusting relationships with staff that enable them to settle in the home, enjoy the support they receive and contribute meaningfully to their plans.

Missing from care records are clear, showing how protocols with police help to return young people to the home safely. Relationships with safeguarding agencies follow statutory guidelines and company procedures ensuring the full protection of young people. Young people benefit from access to an advocacy agency should they need to talk to someone independent of the home about any concerns. Young people enjoy a good consistency of care. Staffing levels at the home are now stable enabling young people to know who will be looking after them. There is effective leadership, good support and regular supervision for staff from the recently appointed Registered Manager. This improved practice underpins staff confidence to look after young people.

There are effective, established systems to monitor the quality of care provided and the running of the home. The monthly checks of in-house records enable the Registered Manager to identify trends and patterns that inform improvements to practice. Additionally, regulation 33 monitoring visits are carried out and reports are

produced which highlight any shortfalls. This independent feedback helps staff reflect upon and improve their practice. An evolving development plan for the home pragmatically spells out future objectives to improve how care is delivered. The absence of requirements or recommendations arising from this inspection reflects the appointment of a manager and good progress made by the home since the last inspection.