

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC372613
Inspection date	21/02/2014
Inspector	Julian Mason
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	21/06/2013
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Service information

Brief description of the service

This is a privately owned children's home that provides care for up to two young people. The home provides care for young people with emotional and/or 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**.

Since the last inspection, new leadership and management arrangements are in place that includes the registration of a new manager who has successfully registered with Ofsted.

The home was judged as good overall at the last full inspection in June 2013 and two of the three recommendations that were made at this time have been actioned. The home's internal and external environment continues to be improved, ensuring young people's comfort and safety. For example, the position of electrical cabling in the games room has been made safer and the home's driveway has benefited from temporary improvements with plans to lay a newer and more permanent surface in the spring. In addition, new fire doors have been fitted to bedrooms and a written emergency evacuation plan has been introduced. Young people are very positive about the accommodation on offer and highlight that the indoor space available to them is a real benefit to living in the home.

Although the home have not been able to recruit any Welsh speaking staff, young people's needs in relation to their ethnicity and cultural backgrounds are being

supported and met. Young people who are multilingual are able to converse in their native language with professionals who are involved in their care and support. For example, young people have been enabled by the home's staff to access an advocacy service that provides Welsh speaking advocates. Young people's placements are very stable and long-term which has resulted in the staff team getting to know each individual very well. Relationships are positive and open which has helped facilitate and improve consultation. Young people's views and feelings are frequently gained about their care and support arrangements. They feel listened to and involved in decision making around their day-to-day routines and plans. Young people continue to feel safe in the home and with the staff team who look after them.

The Registered Manager and staff team demonstrate a continued commitment to improve the quality of care and outcomes for young people. The Registered Manager has effective systems in place to monitor the home's records and to evaluate the quality of the service being provided. Young people and other relevant groups are regularly consulted through these systems. The Registered Manager uses this information to determine the strengths and weaknesses of the home and to further improve the service. For example, the staff team now have a greater focus on promoting independent living skills and responsibilities. New independence plans have been introduced that help guide the team in the direct work they do with each young person. Young people are making progress and benefit from the improved focus on coaching and mentoring practices. As a result, young people's confidence and skills are growing as they move towards young adulthood.

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*.