

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC376719
Inspection date	05/12/2012
Inspector	Julian Parker
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	02/08/2012
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Service information

Brief description of the service

This home is one of several homes in the area, operated by a private company. It provides care and accommodation for up to two young people with emotional and behavioural difficulties. The company has its own school for children not attending mainstream education provision, and can also offer weekly therapy.

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**.

At the last inspection in August 2012, the overall quality rating for the service was good. The home had no Registered Manager in post at the time. Another shortfall related to the condition of repair and décor of the property. The provider has addressed both of these issues fully. Since the last inspection, a Registered Manager has been appointed and this key post ensures that the leadership and management of the home is sound. The home is undergoing redecoration to further personalise areas such as bedrooms and communal space to more accurately reflect young people's personal interests and colour preferences.

The new manager is actively progressing aspects of the service to further enhance outcomes for young people. For example, valuable work is taking place that makes sure young people have regular opportunity to talk about their experience and how they believe living at the home can be improved. Through this formalised and recorded dialogue, young people confirm that they are kept fully informed about, and involved in, their individual placement plans and issues which affect their enjoyment at the home.

Staff continue to work closely with therapists and external professionals to ensure young people's individual needs are fully assessed and taken into account when care planning. The parents of young people play a valuable role providing planned contact and also ensuring that their children's views are heard. Staff are very committed and extremely supportive towards the young people in their care. This is particularly evident in their support of educational placements and in helping young people access new recreational experiences, such as amateur theatre and football training.

Through their behaviour, young people demonstrate that they are generally positive about their care and support, and their individual relationships with staff are good. They recognise the work staff do to support them and ensure their safety. Staff provide clear boundaries in a nurturing environment.

The ethos and practice within the home promotes individual identity, difference and equality. As a result, young people receive care and support based on individual identified needs, assessed risks and their potential to develop. Case records provide good evidence of the progress made by young people while in placement and confirm the flexibility of the care team looking after them.

The manager's appointment, coupled with existing effective monitoring systems clearly strengthens the on-going development in the children's home and help to improve outcomes for young people. The internal and independent monitoring reports critically comment upon the quality of the service and demonstrate excellent involvement and consultation with staff and young people about the good progress being made by the home.

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*.