

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC379357
Inspection date	20/03/2014
Inspector	Clive Lucas
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	27/06/2013
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Service information

Brief description of the service

This home is part of a large private children's care organisation and is registered to accommodate three young people with emotional and behavioural difficulties. The home offers short, long-term and emergency placements. The home has a school on site, and this is registered with the Department for Education.

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 previous inspection the home was judged to be good, since then they have made good progress. At the previous inspection shortfalls were identified relating to the records that are kept in the home. Full records are now kept of restraints and sanctions. There is a very low use of these. There has only been one of each since the previous inspection on 27 June 2013. Records are also kept now of any action taken to remedy faults identified during fire tests. Consequently, records provide clear information relating to behaviour management, so that the Registered Manager can effectively monitor practice in this area and identify any trends. Furthermore, it is possible to verify that action is taken to ensure that the fire alarm and evacuation system is working effectively to protect young people.

Young people in the home speak very positively about living there. They enjoy the wide range of activities they have recently taken part in, including horse riding and organised trips out with staff. Young people are positive about staff, they say that 'they relate to us, we don't need to keep anything in, they are easy to talk to.' They also say that they are 'nice' and 'caring'. There is effective consultation with young

people. In addition to regular key work sessions between a young person and their keyworker, the Registered Manager regularly uses surveys to get young people's views of the home. During the inspection one young person said 'If we talk to staff, things get sorted out.'

Staff are effectively meeting young people's cultural needs. They support young people to observe diet and religious study if that is their choice. Where necessary, staff make changes to the routines of the home to facilitate this. Staff are also working to keep young people safe; they have a good awareness of individual young people's vulnerabilities. Identified risks are recorded and strategies are put in place to reduce those risks. Staff make changes to young people's risk assessments and plans when new areas of risk are identified. Young people say that staff talk to them about keeping themselves safe. Staff work effectively with other agencies to provide support for young people. One worker from another agency said that staff follow the missing from care protocols 'brilliantly'. External professionals who visit the home describe their links with staff as positive. They say that the home has a nice atmosphere and that young people are polite.

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*.