

## Inspection report for children's home

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| <b>Unique reference number</b> | SC381089        |
| <b>Inspection date</b>         | 18/02/2014      |
| <b>Inspector</b>               | Elaine Cray     |
| <b>Type of inspection</b>      | Interim         |
| <b>Provision subtype</b>       | Children's home |

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| <b>Date of last inspection</b> | 08/05/2013 |
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## Service information

### Brief description of the service

This local authority home is registered to provide care and accommodation for two children who have emotional and behavioural difficulties.

### The inspection judgements and what they mean

|                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Good progress</b>         | 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. |
| <b>Satisfactory progress</b> | 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.                                  |
| <b>Inadequate progress</b>   | 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 as good at the last full inspection which took place in May 2013. It is judged to be making good progress following this interim inspection.

The service continues to provide good quality of care to young people. Improvement in recording has been addressed. All records are accurate, up to date and provide good accountability for staff practice. Records are written with a child centred approach. This gives young people a good sense of meaning as to how they are looked after and how decisions about their future are made.

Making and maintaining relationships remains a clear strength of this home. Young people value their relationships with staff. Communication is relaxed and there is a good rapport between young people and staff. Young people are able to discuss their concerns and views because they feel listened to. They invest their trust in staff because they have a good sense of attachment and stability at the home.

Young people make good progress at the home. They are safer and have a greater sense of security. Safeguarding is effective because staff have an in-depth understanding of the vulnerabilities and backgrounds of young people. Robust risk

assessment keeps young people safe. There are significant reductions in young people going missing and risk taking behaviours. These outcomes are a result of the effective partnership working with the police and other safeguarding agencies.

Education attendance and achievement is a central focus for all young people. Their educational potential is fully supported because staff consistently liaise and work together with local schools. Challenges and obstacles to young people attending education are quickly identified and overcome. This proactive and joint working approach means young people continue to feel more confident and enabled to attend and do well in school.

This positive approach is further exemplified by how young people are kept occupied with a range of activities and education opportunities. Young people mature and are able to make positive choices as they attend activities such as army cadets. Structured activities and effective liaison with the police means young people spend far less time making poor associations in their local communities.

Young people's progress is cemented and reinforced with good support to gain knowledge and skills in preparation for independence. They take responsibility for their own day-to-day routines, including helping around the house. Young people enjoy spending time with staff and learning new skills. On the day of this inspection young people were enjoying learning about how to decorate.

Young people, social workers and families can access information about the service in the home's Statement of Purpose and young people's guide. The copy of the most up to date Statement of Purpose was submitted to Ofsted at the time of this inspection. Young people feel they settle well into the home because they receive good information and especially because they can visit the house before they move in. They say meeting the staff and young people before they lived at the home is a significant part of making good relationships.

Young people are looked after in a homely and well maintained environment. They live in a safe environment because health and safety are effectively managed. All young people know what to do in the event of a fire.

The service improves because staff are motivated and contribute to the development of the home at all levels. For example at a practical level, staff have made improvements to the garden and are keen to help young people decorate their bedrooms. They also work tirelessly to promote positive outcomes for the young people.

Young people enjoy consistent quality of care due to effective monitoring and organising of the home's management and recording systems. The dedicated staff team places young people at the centre of the service. This results in a strong sense of nurture and permanency for young people. Effective management is testament to there being no statutory requirements or recommendations being set as a result of this visit.

## 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*.