

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC381089
Inspection date	20/12/2012
Inspector	Michelle Spruce
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	13/06/2012
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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

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 June 2012, the overall quality rating for the service was judged as good. There were no requirements or recommendations for improvement made. In the interim period, the Registered Manager and staff team have demonstrated a continued to achieve improved outcomes for young people and in the quality of care provided. Young people making significant progress in achieving and aspiring to their individual goals.

Staff are consistent and proactive in supporting young people's educational achievement. The home consults with schools and colleges to maximise the learning potential of all young people, for example, by attending parents and carers evenings. During one consultation a lecturer said about a young person, 'She is a star. I wish there were more like her.' Some young people achieve full attendance in their educational placements.

The management and staff team place safeguarding high on the list of priorities. Staff continue to work exceptionally well with external professionals to reduce the risk posed to those young people who are vulnerable to the risk of sexual exploitation. Regular, effective and consistent support has reduced missing from care

episodes and the young people's self-esteem and positive behaviour have improved. The best interests of young people are promoted through open and transparent communication with other professionals and the sharing of information on a need to know basis.

The home continues to improve the quality of care for young people because the manager provides clear guidance and plans effectively for the future of the home. Staff and young people actively participate in consultation about the home through regular team and residents meetings. This assists the manager to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the service and helps shape the plans for the future.

The Registered Manager and staff team communicate more effectively and efficiently through better use of electronic systems, such as, the internet and e-mail. Staff have received training to assist them and said, 'The communication is fantastic in the home.' It is well presented and accessible to authorised personnel.

The young people and the staff team have focused on fund raising for charity through a range of social events in the community. For example, young people and staff held a cake sale and took part in abseiling. This has integrated young people within the community and helped to improve social relationships.

No further requirements or recommendations for improvement have been made following this inspection.

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*.