

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	27/02/2014
Inspector	Sharon Lloyd
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	14/06/2013
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Service information

Brief description of the service

This service is a privately run children's home. The home provides long-term care and accommodation for three children who may have emotional 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**.

The overall effectiveness of the home was judged to be adequate at the full inspection in June 2013. Since then, it has made good progress and has fully met the two requirements and one recommendations for improvement. As a result, the leadership and management of the home has improved.

An evaluative report on the operation of the home and quality of care has been submitted to HMCI. It demonstrates effective review of children's placements and their progress as well as the overall operation of the home. The registered manager reviews the development plan regularly and there is evidence of action taken to drive improvement in the quality of care and outcomes for individual children. Frequent consultation with children ensures that their views are ascertained and there is clear evidence that these influence the development of the service. Similarly, consultation with external professionals, including placing social workers informs developments in the quality of care.

Since the last inspection, the home has provided a stable staff team. Children benefit from being looked after by consistent and well-established staff who provide a warm

and nurturing environment. Staff are very experienced and well-qualified and this helps them to understand and respond effectively to children's challenging behaviour. The Registered Manager and assistant manager provide staff with regular, effective supervision and support. This promotes good consistency of care. Children benefit from good continuity of care from staff who know them well.

Improvements have been made to children's individual care plans and risk assessments. They are plainly recorded in a style that meets their individual needs. For example, some have pictures and photographs to make them more child-friendly for children with communication difficulties. They are recorded in a way that is helpful to the child and clearly demonstrate that children have contributed to them.

The home has been through a turbulent time in recent months. Some children have presented extremely challenging behaviour in the community. The home has worked closely with other professionals to promote their safety and welfare. Multi-agency meetings have ensured that children's placements have not been allowed to drift. Some children have moved on successfully to new homes as a result of unsafe behaviour in the community. The home has supported children skilfully and appropriately to move. It has protected children on long term placements from the effects of the anti-social and challenging behaviour of other children.

The safeguarding arrangements in the home are good. Staff act promptly to protect children who are missing and those absent without authority. They follow local protocols and work very well with the local police and safeguarding team. As a result of their swift and pro-active responses to a range of situations, children are protected from further danger.

Children continue to enjoy living at the home. They report that they feel happy and safe there and that staff look after them well. They respond well to the nurturing environment and significantly reduce their aggression and violent outbursts. They learn to treat others with respect, following the good examples provided by the staff team.

Children make good progress in their education. Those who have not attended school in previous placements begin to re-engage with education. Staff liaise effectively with schools and support children with homework. Children have very high levels of attendance and some make extremely good progress.

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*.