

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC386837
Inspection date	13/03/2014
Inspector	Monica Hargreaves
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	17/10/2013
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Service information

Brief description of the service

The home provides care and accommodation for two young people with emotional and behavioural difficulties or learning difficulties. The home is owned and managed by a private company.

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 full inspection in October 2013, this home was judged to be good. Following this interim inspection, the home is judged to have made good progress.

Two recommendations were made at the previous inspection. These are both met.

The organisation has increased the probation period for all new staff and the manager has ensured that they do not work alone with young people until they have been confirmed in post. This means that young people are cared for by staff who have demonstrated their competence and have a good understanding of the needs of young people and the routines of the home.

The young person's guide to the service has been updated. It is produced in a format that is appropriate to the needs of the young people and gives them good information about the routines of the home and their rights in care. The guide also includes the details of the Children's Rights Director and the young person's Independent Reviewing Officer. This allows young people to make direct contact with these individuals if they wish.

Young people thrive in this home. They benefit from the warm nurturing relationships they have with staff and their confidence and sense of self esteem grows as a result of the way they are looked after. Young people report that they 'get on with all the staff'. They were observed to interact very well with staff and were relaxed in their company. They say that they feel safe and happy in the home and that they are well looked after. One young person commented 'It's really helped me living here. I'm in a much better place in my life now'.

Young people understand that staff are concerned about their welfare and want them to do well. Staff work hard to ensure that young people have good educational opportunities and young people engage very well with education. They have aspirations and plans for future employment and are attending college courses to help them to achieve their ambitions. Young people enjoy a healthy lifestyle. They eat well and take part in a range of activities that promote physical exercise. Young people who used substances before they came to live in the home have continued to be supported to remain drug free. This has had a beneficial impact on their health.

Young people benefit from being cared for by a committed and competent team of staff who are supported very well by their managers. Staff work together very effectively, providing consistent care to young people. This ensures that young people are safe and helps them to achieve positive outcomes. Staff have an excellent understanding of the young people they look after. They value young people as individuals and speak proudly of their achievements. Relatives make positive comments about the quality of care in the home. They report that staff are very helpful and welcoming and comment that they are confident that young people are safe and well looked after.

The home is managed effectively and the manager is well qualified and suitably experienced. She works closely with the deputy manager, who ensures that the home runs smoothly in the manager's absence. Managers provide very good support and leadership to the staff team. They monitor the progress of young people closely to ensure that they are safe and achieve positive outcomes.

No requirements or recommendations have been made as a result of 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*.