

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC387784
Inspection date	04/03/2014
Inspector	Mark Ryder
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	31/07/2013
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Service information

Brief description of the service

This children's home is registered to provide care and accommodation for two young people of either gender with emotional and/or behavioural difficulties. The home is operated by the local authority.

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 July 2013, the home was judged as good. Two recommendations to improve practice were made; the result of this inspection is that both of these recommendations have been met.

Young people continue to feel safe living at this home. There are no incidents of missing from home since the last inspection. Staff have a good awareness of child protection procedures and understanding of safeguarding practice. Young people have stability to live their lives free from harm.

Young people have made progress since admission. Staff strongly advocate for all young people to engage with education and training opportunities and this has worked well. Young people now all attend school and college and are making good progress in their respective studies.

Staff manage young people's behaviour well. There has been no use of physical restraint since the last inspection. Challenging and risk taking behaviour is taken seriously and appropriately addressed. Young people comment that staff treat them

with respect and understanding.

Sanctions are proportionate and reasonable. Whilst young people do not enjoy being sanctioned they do understand the consequences of their anti social or dangerous behaviour. However, records do not always refer to how effective a sanction was to stop or reduce the behaviour. It is therefore unclear what alternative strategies might be used if previous sanctions were ineffective.

There is a robust monitoring process that ensures young people are safe and that staff have sufficient support, training and guidance to work effectively. Leaders and manager's are aware of the strengths and weaknesses of the home. Feedback from social workers, parents and young people provide useful comment on how to improve. The business plan reflects development and progress throughout the year.

Consultation is a key aspect of young people's placements. They have opportunities to express their wishes and feelings in all areas of their lives, for example, decoration of the home and activities. Young people comment positively on staff saying that they are treated with respect and understanding. Diverse needs are recognised and met.

Staff follow the organisation's policies and procedures in relation to food handling and fire risk assessments. Although the policies on food handling cover the whole local authority, the home ensures that practice reflects the standard this policy requires. Records are consistent with this home and include only information about this service. These aspects are an improvement since the last inspection.

As a result of this inspection there is one statutory requirement made. However, this does not impact on the welfare and safety of young people.

Areas for improvement

Statutory Requirements

This section sets out the actions which must be taken so that the registered person/s meets the Care Standards Act 2000, Children's Homes Regulations 2001 and the National Minimum Standards. The registered person(s) must comply with the given timescales.

Reg.	Requirement	Due date
17 (2001)	ensure that within 24 hours of the use of any measure of control, restraint or discipline in a children's home, a written record is made in a volume kept for the purpose of which shall include the effectiveness and any consequences of the use of the measure. (Regulation 17 B (3) (f))	01/04/2014

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*.