

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC397092
Inspection date	19/12/2013
Inspector	Trevor Hall
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	08/08/2013
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Service information

Brief description of the service

This children's home is operated by a private company. The home provides care for up to two young people of either gender with emotional and/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**.

At the last inspection in August 2013 the overall quality rating for the home was judged as good. One requirement was set as a result of the inspection relating to the need to promptly supply HMCI with a copy of the organisations external visitors report, required under regulation 33. The home has appropriately addressed this, with all monthly external monitoring reports now sent with required timescales. This latest inspection has raised no new requirements or recommendations.

In the intervening period since this last inspection, the home has continued to provide an excellent quality of care. Young people continue to enjoy the benefits of significantly improving outcomes; their education attendance and attainment remain high. Safeguarding is afforded a very high priority and young people are fully involved in their care planning arrangements.

Young people are very positive about the care and support that they receive, and their individual relationships with staff are extremely good. Staff provide young people with a consistently high standard of care, structure and routine. All aspects of care planning and practice are highly personalised and tailored to meet the individual

needs of the young people, which helps to promote individual identity, difference and equality.

Young people are encouraged to behave well. Each young person has an individualised behaviour management plan that informs staff about known behaviours and how these are best dealt with. Unauthorised absences by young people are infrequent as are physical interventions, by staff. Positive behaviour is recognised and rewarded and sanctions that are applied when poor behaviour is exhibited are both fair and proportionate. Young people's views and comments, or their refusal to comment following incidents are currently not being routinely recorded.

Staff have a detailed knowledge of the individual young people they care for. They provide personal support tailored to reflect each young person's development and to meet their changing needs. Staff encourage young people to take more responsibility for themselves appropriate to their age and level of understanding. As a result young people have a responsible attitude towards their health and understand the importance of maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

The home continues to be very effectively managed. The home demonstrates continued improvement in the quality of care provided with a clear and focused commitment to service development and achieving positive outcomes for young people. The internal and external monitoring of the practice of the home, undertaken by the Registered Manager and by appointed management representatives, is regular, consistent and accurately reflects the functioning of the home and routinely seeks the views of young people about their care.

The home is well managed by an experienced, dedicated and well qualified Registered Manager. The manager has a clear and realistic understanding of the strengths of the service and the areas for further development based on clear evidence. Staff work closely with external professionals to ensure young people's individual needs and views are heard. Staff are well supported, receiving formal supervision at a frequency in line with best practice expectations. The home's notification system is good. Staff are proactive, correctly notifying any concerns to the social work teams, police and other agencies in relation to young people and any matters of significance. As a result, this helps to promote young people's welfare.

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*.