

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC400355
Inspection date	21/02/2014
Inspector	Monica Hargreaves
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	18/07/2013
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Service information

Brief description of the service

This home provides accommodation for up to three young people with emotional and/or behavioural difficulties. It is operated 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**.

This home was judged to be good at the last full inspection in July 2013. Since that time the home has made good progress.

Two recommendations were made at the last inspection. These related to the maintenance of the home and an aspect of the manager's monitoring reports. Both recommendations have been met, demonstrating the manager's commitment to improving the service for the benefit of young people.

Young people live in a homely environment that is safe, comfortably furnished and well maintained. The bathroom has been redecorated and new blinds have been fitted. The blinds protect young people's privacy. Other parts of the home have also been redecorated. For example, young people have chosen new decorations for their own bedrooms that reflect their personal tastes. They report that they like their rooms and they take a pride in keeping them in good order.

The manager regularly monitors the work of the home and the progress young people make. As part of the monitoring process, he actively seeks the views of young people and stakeholders. He uses the information gained as a result of this

consultation to inform developments in the home. The feedback from consultation is reflected in the reports that the manager provides to senior managers in the organisation and to Ofsted.

Young people have made good progress in most areas of their lives since the last inspection. Most notably they have grown in confidence, contact with relatives has increased and they have engaged well with education. This progress is confirmed by comments made by relatives and professionals. For example, a parent said 'My relationship with (name) has dramatically improved in past months since arriving in the home' and a professional reported '(name) is more confident than prior to being placed with the home.'

Young people's attendance at school is very good, with some young people regularly achieving 100%. This is a particular achievement for young people who had struggled to engage with education prior to coming to live in the home. This excellent level of attendance has enabled young people to make good progress towards meeting their individual education targets. Some young people are due to take examinations in the summer and have plans in place for further education and employment.

Young people benefit from being looked after by a consistent team of competent staff. Since the last inspection, training has continued to be updated to ensure that staff can meet the emerging needs of young people. For example, staff have recently attended additional training on self harm and staff and young people attended a course on preparation for independence. Morale in the staff team is good. Staff are committed, enthusiastic about their work and very positive about the young people they look after. This communicates itself to young people whose sense of self-esteem has grown as a result.

Young people report that they feel 'very safe' in the home and that staff look after them 'very well'. They say that they can talk to all of the staff team and feel that they are listened to. One young person said 'staff care about what happens to you'. The very positive relationships that have developed between young people and staff has enabled young people to engage well with staff and helped them to 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*.