

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC411030
Inspection date	11/03/2014
Inspector	Angela Whiteley
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	19/11/2013
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Service information

Brief description of the service

The home is privately run and registered to provide care and accommodation for up to three young people 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 full inspection in November 2013, the overall judgement was good with some outstanding features. Since then, the service has demonstrated continued improvement in its quality of care and outcomes for young people. The Registered Manager has positively addressed the two requirements and the recommendation made at the last inspection.

The Registered Manager is proactive in following up the placing authority for missing documents to ensure young people's files contain all the required information. This ensures young people have access to accurate records about their care history and that staff are able to support their current and emerging needs. Placements are subject to frequent review and are managed through timely decision-making meetings, which ensure young people are fully informed about their care plan.

Young people continue to be protected by strong child protection measures with regard to staffing, health and safety, bullying and behaviour management. Relationships between staff and young people are strong and as a result, sanctions are minimal and physical intervention is rarely required. Young people do not go missing from the home and incidents of bullying are rare, this ensures young people

remain safe in this placement.

Outcomes for young people continue to improve. There are improvements in contact arrangements, regular attendance at health appointments, excellent engagement with education and therapeutic interventions. Young people are regularly engaged in activities to develop their skills and abilities. They particularly enjoy weekly horse riding lessons. This helps to develop young people's confidence and social skills in the community. They are encouraged and supported by staff to practice self-care and independence skills in the home and in the community and learn to travel independently. Individual independence programmes allow young people to progress at a pace that is consistent with their age and understanding.

A number of staff changes have taken place since the last inspection, which has strengthened the staff team. The staffing ratios are high to meet the complex needs of the young people in placement. This meets the aims and objectives of the home's Statement of Purpose. This document has recently been reviewed along with a revised children's guide. Some agency staff previously employed to cover for staff absence did not hold the required qualifications. Whilst effective systems are in place to ensure agency staff are fully supported in their role; and young people's safety and well-being is assured, they were not working towards qualifications. Shortfalls in staffing have been addressed through the permanent recruitment of staff. As a result, agency staff are no longer required at this home and all new staff are working towards the required qualifications.

Young people live in a large house, which is warm and welcoming. It provides a comfortable environment that promotes their safety and well-being. The Registered Manager is currently developing plans in preparation for a move. Ofsted have been made aware that the lease on this home is due to expire soon. Young people are to be fully involved in the move and will visit their new home prior to moving in. Several of the current staff team will move to the home to give young people stability and consistency, to help them settle into their new home.

The Registered Manager maintains effective leadership of the home. She is assisted by a competent and skilled staff team who understand the needs of the young people in placement. There is a strong commitment to training and professional development within the home. In particular, the staff team value the input given by the providers' therapeutic clinicians who meet with them frequently. This improves their skills, knowledge and understanding and keeps them up-to-date with practice, which helps them protect young people's safety and welfare.

The Registered Manager and staff team demonstrate an enthusiastic and committed approach to young people. Any area of weakness identified is dealt with promptly. These effective measures ensure the standards within the home remain high and continue to improve.

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*.