

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	20/02/2013
Inspector	Monica Hargreaves
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	03/10/2012
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Service information

Brief description of the service

This home is privately owned and registered to provide care and accommodation for up to three young people who have 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, the overall effectiveness of the home was judged to be good. The two recommendations that were made at the last inspection are met. The young person's guide has been reviewed and amended in consultation with young people currently living in the home. This is a colourful document that gives young people good information about the routines of the home and their rights in care. It now includes details of the Children's Rights Director and young people's Independent Reviewing Officers. This enables young people to make direct contact with individuals who are independent of the home if they have a concern or need independent advice. A copy of the home's updated Statement of Purpose has been sent to Ofsted.

Young people continue to make good progress overall. Staff have been successful in identifying appropriate education and training placements for young people who had previously found it difficult to engage with education. Young people are achieving a good level of attendance in these placements, which maximises their opportunity to achieve.

Young people are cared for safely in the home and are supported to understand how

to keep themselves safe when they are out in the community. Clear risk assessment and management plans ensure that all areas of potential concern for young people are known to all staff and that staff work consistently to protect young people. Risk assessments are reviewed to keep them up to date so that they continue to be effective and relevant to young people's needs. Before they came to live in the home, some young people had frequently gone missing from their placements. Staff have worked well with young people and over time these episodes have reduced. Consequently, the potential risks to young people have lessened.

Young people benefit from being cared for by a competent team of staff who are enthusiastic about their work. Staff have a good understanding of the young people's needs and they develop positive, supportive relationships with them. This helps young people to feel safe and settled, promotes their sense of self-esteem and consequently supports their progress. Staff work hard to help young people to learn to manage conflict and difficulty in a positive way. Generally, young people behave well towards one another and staff. If young people's behaviour becomes challenging, staff respond positively, defusing situations to minimise the need for physical intervention. As a result of the way staff have worked with young people, there have been no incidents that have resulted in a restraint since the last inspection. This contributes to young people's sense of safety and well-being in the home.

The manager and staff regularly consult with young people, their families and stakeholders about the quality of care in the home. The feedback that is gained from this consultation is used to inform future developments and improvements in the home. In the course of this consultation, many positive comments have been made about the home by different individuals. For example, one social worker said, 'This is the first time in a while I have seen (name) as settled and making positive progress with his development. Clearly the home is working hard in supporting (name) with his achievements' and one young person told their social worker, 'This is the best kids' home I've ever stayed in.' Young people are asked for their views about the staff who work with them and their comments contribute to annual staff appraisals. Young people are also fully involved in the discussions that take place about their own care plans. All of these arrangements ensure that young people understand that their views matter and that they are part of the decisions that are made about their lives and their care in the home.

Young people benefit from living in a homely environment. The house is very well maintained and kept safe. Since the last inspection, there has been a programme of redecoration and refurbishment in many parts of the home. This was undertaken in consultation with young people who were able to help to choose furnishings and colour schemes. This encourages young people to take a pride in their home and promotes their sense of self-worth. Routine health and safety checks and robust risk assessments ensure that the home is kept safe.

The home continues to be managed effectively. The manager provides good leadership to the team and staff report that they feel they are well supported. The manager monitors the quality of care regularly to ensure that standards remain high.

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*.