

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC423442
Inspection date	17/06/2013
Inspector	Stella Henderson
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	23/07/2012
--------------------------------	------------

© Crown copyright 2013

Website: www.ofsted.gov.uk

This document may be reproduced in whole or in part for non-commercial educational purposes, provided that the information quoted is reproduced without adaptation and the source and date of publication are stated.

Service information

Brief description of the service

This privately owned home is registered to provide care and accommodation for up to five 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 July 2012 the overall effectiveness was judged as good. Requirements were raised in relation to notifications and ensuring a copy of the Children's Homes Regulations 2001 is kept in the home. Recommendations were also raised to improve practice around record keeping for vetting and recruitment, induction training for new staff and internet safety.

The manager has met the requirements and recommendations set at the last inspection. As a result, young people benefit from improved safeguarding processes and staff are better informed.

Young people remain safe in this placement and free from bullying and intimidation. Outcomes continue to develop positively with reductions in risk-taking behaviour, and their behaviour continues to be modified and improved. For example, strategies are successful in enabling young people to better manage their behaviour, resulting in very few restraints. Episodes of young people who go missing from the home and incidents of substance misuse have greatly reduced.

Young people have overall made good progress in other areas of their lives. Young

people also benefit from improvements to contact arrangements and better engagement with education. For instance, some are sitting mock examinations and embarking on work experience. Young people have also benefited from improved safety measures and other refurbishments in the home.

Young people continue to be protected by appropriate responses to child protection concerns. Procedural shortfalls are identified, however, within the home's safeguarding policies. These have no direct impact on young people but recommendations are set in order to assist the provider to further improve the service.

Areas for improvement

Recommendations

To improve the quality and standards of care further the service should take account of the following recommendation(s):

- strengthen procedures for monitoring and controlling the activities of the home. This is with specific reference to contingency plans within the home's child protection procedures in the event of an allegation against the manager (NMS 21.1)
- ensure that managers and staff are clear about their roles and responsibilities. Specifically, ensure the level of delegation and lines of accountability are clearly defined in the home's child protection procedures. (NMS 21.4)

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*.