

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC444289
Inspection date	20/01/2014
Inspector	Bill Drumm
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	13/08/2013
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Service information

Brief description of the service

The home accommodates up to four children who may have 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**.

At the last inspection in August 2013, the overall effectiveness rating of the home was good. The home has made good progress since the last inspection.

One requirement and three recommendations were made at last inspection. All have been fully met. The requirement was for the home's manager to establish and maintain a system for providing for consultation with children accommodated in the home, their parents and placing authorities. The home's manager ensures that regular meetings are held with young people and that they are encouraged to share their thoughts and ideas about the care they receive and how the home is run. In addition, the home's manager has also introduced formal consultation questionnaires that are shared with the parents and relatives of young people as well as their placing authorities. Comments received so far include, 'you're good at keeping my child safe,' 'they're attending education regularly and they're also learning to look after themselves and 'they're doing very well, they know you'll try and explain things and listen to their decisions.' This means that young people and those who are important to them are listened to.

The first recommendation was to ensure that all written records are objective and

clearly written. The home's manager has, through individual supervision sessions and team meetings reminded staff of the importance of clear, concise record keeping. Additionally, a number of formal record keeping logs have been introduced. This means that, staff can quickly and clearly record, the content of discussions between the home, parents and other relevant parties.

The second recommendation was to ensure that the results of all statutory reviews of placement plans are recorded on the young person's file, and that individuals responsible for pursuing actions at the home are clearly identified. The home's manager has introduced a formal system for recording the outcomes of all meetings attended by staff. The decisions made, those responsible for carrying out any agreed actions and in what timescale are fully recorded. This means that important decisions affecting the lives of young people will be carried out in a prompt and timely fashion.

The final recommendation was to ensure that all sanctions used within the home to help young people modify their behaviour are both fair and reasonable. The home's manager has reviewed the home's sanction records and highlighted which sanctions work best for each young person. This information has been incorporated into their individual placement plans and means that all staff apply sanctions in a consistent manner.

Additionally, the home has made further progress in a number of areas. Young people are actively encouraged to enjoy their leisure time and to pursue their own hobbies and interests. Where possible they are assisted to join local clubs and societies like the girl guides and the boy scouts. This helps them to develop personal friendships outside of the home and to enjoy new activities. All young people at the home regularly attend full-time education. This means young people learn new things and have the best possible life chances. The home's manager has also reviewed each young person's placement plan. Information relating to the use of sanctions and restraints is presented to young people by using colourful graphs. This helps young people to clearly see the progress they are making as the number of sanctions and restraints reduces.

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*.