

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	03/02/2014
Inspector	Julian Mason
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	30/04/2013
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Service information

Brief description of the service

This children's home is run by a private organisation to provide care and accommodation for up to four young people with emotional and/or behavioural difficulties. It provides an on-site school.

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**.

The home was judged as good overall at the last full inspection in April 2013 and the one requirement and single recommendation made as a result of this visit have been actioned. The home's Statement of Purpose has been revised and updated so it clearly describes how young people will be looked after and what can be expected from the service. Information about staff to young people ratios is now explicitly stated and matched in practice to the needs and circumstances of each young person living in the home.

Since the last inspection, new leadership and management arrangements are now in place that includes the registration of a newly recruited manager. The Registered Manager is suitably qualified and has significant experience of successfully leading and managing similar residential provision. The home continues to develop and improve its services to young people because of the effective monitoring and quality assurance systems being used.

The quality of care remains strong because of the staff team's continued commitment to consult, involve and listen to what young people have to say.

Consultation processes are being strengthened further by the introduction of a young people's forum to assist with future service development. Young people feel their voices are heard and can confidently identify the progress they have made since arriving at the home. Improvements and achievements in educational attainment and attendance and reductions in risk taking behaviours are highlighted as areas of significant progress. The therapeutic, educational and supportive structures continue to create opportunities for all young people to break cycles of risky behaviour and make positive changes in their lives.

Young people feel very safe in the home and with the staff who work with them. A key success of the home continues to be the way in which staff successfully engage with young people about significant matters that relate to their safety and protection. Staff approach this work in a planned and coordinated way, which is embedded into their day-to-day practice. Individual programmes are devised and implemented that cover a wide range of subject areas relating to personal safety, behaviour and relationships. Work with young people is continually assessed and evaluated to ensure programmes remain relevant to individual circumstances and needs. Staff provide regular feedback to young people, their social workers and family members where appropriate. Specific feedback to placing social workers and families about progress has been improved recently. This change has been implemented to strengthen partnership working and to encourage a greater understanding of what the home does on a day-to-day basis and how it works with each young person.

Young people continue to experience a homely environment that is comfortable and decorated well with pictures, photographs and soft furnishings. Although the house is in a rural location, staff and young people are able to access local towns and many recreational facilities to counter the isolated nature of the home. Consequently, young people are able to experience a good range of leisure activities of their choosing.

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*.