

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	13/01/2014
Inspector	Pamela Nuckley
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	18/04/2013
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Service information

Brief description of the service

This children's home is privately operated and provides care for two young people, who may have emotional 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 in April 2013, the overall effectiveness of the children's home was judged to be good. There were two requirements and one recommendation made to secure improvements. These have been fully met. The manager and staff provide a stable and secure environment where young people are able to thrive and grow. They are committed to providing a high quality service and improving outcomes for young people. Since the last inspection, the home has clearly demonstrated a capacity for continued improvement.

The home was asked to ensure that Regulation 33 reports reflect that the monitoring of records is robust and that there was enough detail to form an opinion on the quality of care given. All Regulation 33 visitors have completed training that focused on the quality of the report. In addition to this, the format of the report was changed to incorporate reflective accounts on findings and consultation with external agencies. Therefore, the manager has been able to identify improvements needed and has drawn these into her development plan for the home. This has enabled Ofsted to have good oversight of the home between inspections.

The home was asked to ensure that self-harm risk assessments are carried out for

young people who have a history of self-harming behaviour. The young people currently placed do not have a history of this behaviour. However, the home was able to demonstrate that this requirement was addressed promptly after the last inspection. In addition to this, new risk assessment forms were compiled to capture the past history, triggers, associated risks, warning signs, control measures and details of action for staff to take. Further to this, staff have received training in this area. This will ensure that staff are fully informed of individual needs and can take appropriate action when necessary. As a result, young people will receive prompt health care.

The home was asked to ensure that young people receive care which helps them to prepare and supports them into adulthood. The company has developed a skills assessment programme, which is sectioned into stages. Young people's overall skills are observed within the first months (stage one) and action plans are drawn up to address any shortfalls or areas young people identify that they need help with. Areas such as cooking, budgeting and using appliances are covered in stage two. The more complex issues such as finding a home, working with services, employment, paying tax and national insurance and completing general maintenance is covered in stage three. Therefore, young people confidently say that they are gaining skills which will help them when they are ready to leave.

Young people say this is a good home, that they are happy and safe here. One young person said 'they really look after me and make sure I get everything I need.' Another young person said 'I have not been here long but it has been really good. Staff have explained everything and I am settling in well.' Young people continued to say that they felt that they would be fully supported to address any concerns about their care.

One young person has recently moved to main stream senior school. They said that they had made friends and have joined several after school clubs. In addition to this, they said that friends were welcome at their home and that they went out in the local area with them. Therefore, young people are afforded the same opportunities as their peers. Due to the good contacts the home has with the local schools within the area, another young person is looking forward to attending school. In the interim they are receiving in-house education. As a result, young people's education is disrupted as little as possible.

Young people are enjoying activities that they have not done before. For example, one young person said 'I go to Zumba, I had never heard of it before, I love dancing and this is great.' Another young person spent time with the inspector showing them their memory box. It was evident that some items held particular memories for them and they proudly showed photographs of their family and certificates they had gained. Another young person was complimentary about their mother visiting the home. They said 'the home buys ingredients so my mother can make me tea from my home country.' These good practices ensure that young people develop a positive view, knowledge and understanding of their background.

Young people report feeling safe in the home; staff undertake training in

safeguarding during their induction and further courses are available to refresh their understanding. Safeguarding is also regularly discussed in supervision and staff meetings to enhance staff understanding of particular policies for example the whistle blowing policy. Staff place the welfare of young people at the centre of their practice.

The manager is providing strong leadership in the home and staff are well supported in their work. She is committed to the development of the staff team. For example, there is a new staffing structure in place. This gives staff accountability for shifts, responsibilities in completing roles and aids progression within the company.

Established systems ensure the home runs smoothly on a day-to-day basis, and up-to-date policies and procedures support and promote good practice. Regulation 33 and 34 monitoring is regularly carried out and young people are consulted during monitoring visits. The Registered Manager communicates and notifies agencies, including Ofsted, of significant information. Young people are therefore protected by multi-agency decision making.

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*.