

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC457254
Inspection date	14/01/2014
Inspector	Gillian Walters
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	26/06/2013
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Service information

Brief description of the service

This children's home is registered to provide accommodation and care for five young males with emotional and behavioural difficulties, including learning difficulties both within and outside the ASD spectrum. It is one of four homes owned by the company. It offers care to young people on a medium to long-term basis.

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 home's first full inspection on the 26 June 2013 it was judged as good. Two recommendations for improvement were made as a result of that inspection. Both recommendations have been suitably addressed.

Young people are being encouraged to make more constructive use of their free time by planning some structured activities to broaden their interests and counter-balance the time they spend 'hanging out' with friends. An activity resource directory has been produced highlighting activities and places of interest that may appeal to the young people. It is planned that the directory will be developed over time to include more ideas that have been researched and put forward by the young people themselves. The aim is to stimulate young people's interest in and engagement with activities in the immediate and wider community.

Records relating to young people being absent or missing from the home have been amended and no longer make reference to young people 'absconding' from the home. Staff are also actively discouraging other professionals from using such

inappropriate terms thereby ensuring that young people avoid the stigma that such language evokes.

The provider's monitoring arrangements continue to be robust. The Registered Manager has provided Ofsted with a summary of her monitoring activity over a six-month period. It provides an excellent evaluation of the quality of care and activities within the home. It shows that she has a good understanding of her service, of areas of particular strength and as well as areas that require further development. The manager has used this information effectively to inform her development and action planning.

Staff benefit from a comprehensive training programme which addresses their particular interests and essential training needs. In addition the manager has developed a series of task-based activities and workshops that are organised as part of the regular staff meeting arrangements. These give less experienced staff members a good opportunity to enhance and accelerate their learning and personal development. They also enable more experienced staff to refresh their knowledge and share their experience.

Young people are consistently supported to achieve greater levels of independence in order to ensure that they are well prepared as they move into adulthood. The home has made further improvements to the planning documentation to ensure that young people have a clear understanding of their targets and are able to identify each stage of success. The home works closely with young people, their placing authorities and families to ensure that targets identified are ambitious but also realistic and achievable. As a result young people are well informed, have ambition and are committed to achieving their goals. Young people demonstrate positive self-esteem and confidence in the new skills they are acquiring.

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*.