

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC457272
Inspection date	08/01/2014
Inspector	Clive Lucas
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	10/09/2013
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Service information

Brief description of the service

This service provides three placements for children with emotional and/or behavioural difficulties. A private organisation owns and operates this setting.

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 previous inspection the home was judged to be good. Since that time they have made good progress. At the previous inspection shortfalls were identified relating to the maintenance of the home, risk assessments for activities that young people take part in, independent visits to the home and sending updates to the Statement of Purpose to Ofsted.

Maintenance issues are identified and dealt with. Some issues are taking a bit longer to address because of other improvement work. For example, the flooring in the living room and dining room area has not yet been replaced as there is structural work needed to make the two areas distinct and more homely and the flooring cannot be laid until this is complete. Young people say that despite the odd maintenance issue they are happy with the home, which they describe as stable and relaxed. Consequently, the home is one that young people feel comfortable in. There are now risk assessments that cover the activities that young people take part in. As a result, these activities can be made safer and identified risks to young people while taking part in activities can be minimised. The Registered Manager has been sending Ofsted details of changes to the home's Statement of Purpose. This allows Ofsted as the regulator to be aware of significant changes in the home and the services that

are provided. The independent visitor to the home now makes attempts to contact parents to inform the monthly reports on the conduct of the home. This allows a wider range of views and evidence to be gathered.

Since the previous inspection there has been a rise in the number of incidents of young people being missing from care, or absent from the home. However, they have reduced again over recent weeks. Staff keep appropriate records of these. They take active steps to keep young people safe when they are missing or absent. These include calling them on their mobile telephones, looking for them and when appropriate, reporting them missing to the police. Staff also work with other agencies, such as placing social workers, to plan strategies that will reduce the times when young people are missing from the home. Social workers say that staff follow missing from care procedures and protocols and try to keep young people safe. Young people say that staff speak to them about being missing from care and try to stop them from going. While young people are more at risk when they are missing from the home, staff are working to reduce the frequency and risk.

Social workers are very positive about the home and the way staff work with young people. They say that risk management strategies are put in place and implemented to help safeguard young people. They also say that the education attendance has improved for some young people and that those who are struggling with education are supported. Both social workers and young people say that staff are more active in engaging young people in activities. At the time of the inspection staff and young people were involved in cooking. This was an enjoyable activity for the young people, helped them to form good relationships with staff and also to learn important skills for their independence.

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*.