

## Inspection report for children's home

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<b>Unique reference number</b>	SC028174
<b>Inspection date</b>	29/11/2012
<b>Inspector</b>	Rebecca Sharp
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Interim
<b>Provision subtype</b>	Children's home

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<b>Date of last inspection</b>	23/05/2012
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## Service information

### Brief description of the service

This privately operated home is registered to provide care and accommodation for up to four young people who may display emotional or behavioural difficulties.

### The inspection judgements and what they mean

<b>Good progress</b>	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.
<b>Satisfactory progress</b>	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.
<b>Inadequate progress</b>	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 **satisfactory progress**.

The overall effectiveness of the home was judged as adequate at the last full inspection on 23rd May 2012, and Ofsted made four requirements and five recommendations for improvements. The purpose of this inspection was to assess if the registered persons have addressed these previous requirements and recommendations. The manager has satisfactorily addressed all recommendations. Monitoring practices are more robust and staff are working in line with company policy and procedures in their daily recordings. As a result, the management of the home is more effective due to more in depth monitoring. The exterior of the home has been repainted, which now gives visitors the sense of a well-maintained home, as it is inside.

The statement of purpose for the home has been updated and sent into Ofsted. This meets the requirement set at the last inspection. Notifications of significant events are sent into Ofsted within timescales and internal monitoring under Regulation 34 includes detailed consultation with staff, young people, placing authorities and parents. As a result, Ofsted are able to effectively regulate the provider's response to significant events and the quality of care provided by the service.

Sanction and restraint records have been updated to include a description of the measure used; the date and time of the measure used; the effectiveness of any consequences of the measure used. However, in some records of restraint, the details of the young person's behaviour leading up to the restraint are not clear. This means that the justification of physical intervention is also unclear. However, in discussion, staff are able to explain their reasons for deciding that restraint was necessary. As a result, young people do not have the protection of comprehensive records of all incidents of restraint.

There have been some developments in the leadership and management of the home since the last inspection. Training for staff has improved and the company has distributed training packs for staff to refer to following the training session. This enables staff to apply new skills in their daily practice and keep refreshed on their learning, ensuring consistency in their work. The manager has developed internal monitoring practices to assure the effectiveness of the tools in place. Consultation with young people, placing authorities and parents are clearly conveyed in the reports showing their views on the quality of care provided by the home.

To further strengthen the managers review of the quality of care, regular meetings now take place between the management team of the company in order to share good practice. As a result, company policies and procedures have been updated to reflect the outcomes of the meetings. This evidences the emphasis and importance of progress and development in ensuring high quality care for young people.

Young people are positive about the care that they receive and are making significant progress since moving to the home. A social worker for one young person stated 'thanks for all the hard work, effort and dedication in working with and supporting (this young person). They have made significant improvement thanks to you all at the home. Keep up the good work.' All young people are attending their respective education placements and achieving excellent academic success as a result. A teacher for one young person stated 'I am delighted with (the young person's) progress and input to date. They should be proud of all they have accomplished in such a short time.'

Staff are committed to their work and can attribute their dedication to the positive outcomes achieved by the young people in their care. While some elements of young people's care have improved, the recording of restraints has deteriorated.

## **Areas for improvement**

### **Statutory Requirements**

This section sets out the actions which must be taken so that the registered person/s meets the Care Standards Act 2000, Children's Homes Regulations 2001 and the National Minimum Standards. The registered person(s) must comply with the given timescales.

<b>Reg.</b>	<b>Requirement</b>	<b>Due date</b>
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17B (2001)	ensure that within 24 hours of the use of any measure of control, restraint or discipline in a children's home, a written record is made which includes details of the child's behaviour leading to the use of the measure. (Regulation 17B (4) (b))	07/01/2013
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## Recommendations

To improve the quality and standards of care further the service should take account of the following recommendation(s):

## 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*.