

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC405985
Inspection date	06/12/2012
Inspector	Linda Leeder
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	05/07/2012
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Service information

Brief description of the service

This children's home is a private provision which provides care and accommodation for up to three young people with emotional and behavioural difficulties and learning difficulties aged between 11 and 17 years.

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**.

This interim inspection has focused on the progress made by the home since their last full inspection in July 2012 at which they were judged to be good. At the last inspection no recommendations or requirements were made. Young people continue to make good progress while placed at the home.

The service is currently without a Registered Manager however a competent and experienced deputy manager has applied to Ofsted to become the Registered Manager of the home. The home has good quality recruitment processes which are administered robustly by managers and registered individuals. However a recommendation is made regarding the lack of a written procedure for reaching decisions about appointing staff. This is in relation to any criminal convictions or other concerns about suitability of prospective staff that are declared or discovered during the recruitment process. This does not affect the care provided by the staff for the young people accommodated at the service.

The service has improved the information it provides to social workers and parents by using a booklet to avoid misunderstandings and ensure their involvement without

delaying the provision of services for young people. This ensures appropriate, positive and effective communication with family and other important people and enables the swift progression of young people's care plans.

Young people are making good progress in education and employment. All young people are attending an appropriate education provision and some have also taken the first steps into working at their chosen career. Young people have made significant progress from their starting points at the beginning of their placement with the service. Young people report that they are proud of their achievements and have plans to progress further. Young people comment on the enthusiastic support and guidance that has encouraged their endeavours in education and employment provided by the staff at the home.

Young people report that they feel safe and secure at the home. There are good procedures for countering bullying and young people report that staff 'stop any bullying before it starts'. Motivated and effective staff listen to young people and use strong and challenging behaviour management plans to develop positive relationships between young people at the home.

Areas for improvement

Recommendations

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

- ensure that there is a system for recruiting staff and others to include an effective system for reaching decisions as to who is to be appointed and the circumstances in which an application should be refused in the light of any criminal convictions or other concerns about suitability that are declared or discovered through the recruitment process, in a written format. (NMS 16.5)

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*.