

## Inspection report for children's home

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<b>Unique reference number</b>	SC036740
<b>Inspection date</b>	15/01/2013
<b>Inspector</b>	Shaun Common
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Interim
<b>Provision subtype</b>	Secure Unit

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<b>Date of last inspection</b>	04/07/2012
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## Service information

### Brief description of the service

This secure children's home is operated by a local authority and is approved by the Secretary of State to restrict young people's liberty. Education is provided on site.

The children's home can accommodate up to 18 young people, who are aged between 10 and 17 years. Admission of any young person over the age of 10 but under 13 years of age requires the approval of the Secretary of State. Three of the 18 places are for children placed on welfare grounds and 15 are commissioned by the Youth Justice Board for those serving sentences or remanded by the courts to a secure setting.

### 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 **good progress**.

At the last inspection, in July 2012, the overall effectiveness rating was judged good.

One statutory requirement and three recommendations for improvement were made at the last inspection. All matters have been fully addressed.

At the last inspection, the registered person was required to ensure that any incident of physical restraint is recorded within 24 hours. This has been fully addressed and ensures that young people's rights are promoted and that there is a clear and accurate record of their care at the unit.

A recommendation was made that the registered person reviews the incentive

scheme that is in place for young people. Managers have met with young people and have ascertained their views on the incentive scheme. The scheme has been revised, taking account of young people's views. The scheme now offers increased incentives between the gold and platinum levels, meaning young people are better supported and encouraged to develop socially acceptable behaviour.

The registered person was asked to ensure that young people have the option of seeing a health professional if they have been physically restrained. This recommendation has been fully addressed. Unit records now show that young people are offered this opportunity. This change in practice helps to ensure that there are robust measures in place to further promote the safety and well-being of young people.

The registered person was also asked to ensure that the children's guide is available through suitable alternative methods of communication. This recommendation has been fully addressed. The unit now has a number of children's guides available in different languages. The unit also has access to a translation service. If translation to a specific language is needed, this can be accessed quickly. This improvement ensures that any young person, whose first language is not English, has access to information about the home and the services it provides on or very shortly after admission.

Since the last inspection, progress has been made in other areas that enhances the quality of care provided to young people and promotes positive outcomes. A significant amount of training has been provided to staff. This includes essential training in areas such as, physical restraint refreshers and safe handling of medication. It also includes more specialised areas, including, substance misuse, self-harm and the mental health needs of young people. Staff receive on-going positive support through regular supervision and their individual training, development and support needs are identified and met. This means staff are very well supported to deliver good quality care and achieve positive outcomes for young people.

Young people continue to make very good progress in education through support from teaching and care staff. Progress in reading, English and Mathematics is excellent. For example, some young people who stay at the centre for between two and eight weeks make one year's progress in reading ability.

Young people's health needs are met and they receive substantial benefit from the unit's improving health provision. Records show that the number of interventions provided to young people have increased so young people receive health care that improves their outcomes in a range of areas. For example, they receive improved emotional and mental health care, sexual health and substance misuse education and interventions in addition to having access to primary health care services.

The Registered Manager is developing a stronger relationship with the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB). The chair of the LSCB has visited the unit and the Registered Manager is discussing ways that she can be involved with the Board's work. The Registered Manager has agreed dates in the very near future to present

information to the Board about safeguarding matters, such as, physical intervention, complaints and child protection issues. This means the Local Safeguarding Children Board can have oversight and independent scrutiny of practices at the unit, contributing to improving the safety and well-being of young people.

Two areas for further improvement were identified at this inspection. Records of single separation do not include young people's comments or views of incidents. This means young people are not always central to or consulted about all aspects of their care. Sanction records do not include the effectiveness of the measure. This means that managers cannot effectively monitor whether the measures imposed are having a positive effect in assisting young people to develop socially acceptable behaviour.

## 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.

Reg.	Requirement	Due date
17B (2001)	ensure that sanction records include the effectiveness and any consequence of the measure used. (Regulation 17B(3)(f))	31/03/2013

### Recommendations

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

- ensure that young people are offered the opportunity to read and add a permanent comment to the record of their separation. (NMS 23.12)

## 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*.