

Inspection report for children's home

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<b>Unique reference number</b>	SC033457
<b>Inspection date</b>	23/01/2013
<b>Inspector</b>	Shaun Common / Linda Christie
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Interim
<b>Provision subtype</b>	Secure Unit

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<b>Date of last inspection</b>	09/05/2012
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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 in a separate purpose-built building.

The children's home can accommodate up to 27 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.

Facilities available for young people's use include an artificial surface sports pitch, a sports hall, gym, garden areas and a courtyard containing a tennis court.

### 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 May 2012, the overall effectiveness rating was judged good.

One recommendation was made following the last inspection. This has been fully addressed. One new area for improvement has been raised as part of this inspection.

At the last inspection, the registered persons were asked to ensure that only those events that meet the criteria for single separation are recorded in the separation log. This has been fully addressed. Single separation events are clearly and accurately recorded by all staff, which helps to promote young people's rights.

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. The centre has appointed a full-time nurse manager whose role is to take the lead on all health care matters. She also ensures a consistent and positive interface with other health care professions; such as the General Practitioner and child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS). Young people report positive support from the nurse manager who has helped them consider a range of health and well-being matters; such as healthy eating and exercise.

The centre has for the first time produced a calendar. Young people have created all the art work included in the calendar. Young people are proud of the art work they have produced. For example, one young person said, 'Art takes me away from all of my problems.' The centre has provided local neighbours with a copy of the calendar, which is a positive initiative and helps promote good relations within the community. It also promotes understanding of the work the centre does with young people.

There is one area for further improvement identified at this inspection. The centre has procedures for escape from custody and about the use of mobility, which includes what to do if a young person absconds. Staff also have access to the joint protocol between the local authority and the local police force for children who run away or who go missing from home or care. However, the centre does not have an abscond policy or procedure that sets out in detail all the matters in National Minimum Standards for Children's Home's, the Children Act 1989 Volume 5 and Statutory guidance on children who run away and go missing from home or care. The impact of this issue is minimal and there have been no absconding incidents since the last inspection.

## **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 the centre's procedures are compatible with and have regard to Runaway and Missing from Home and Care (RMFHC) protocols; specifically ensure the centre's absconding procedures are reviewed to ensure they set out clearly the matters in NMS 5, the Children Act 1989 Volume 5 and Statutory guidance on children who run away and go missing from home and care 2009. (NMS 5.6)

## 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*.