

## Inspection report for children's home

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<b>Inspection date</b>	29/01/2013
<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>	11/07/2012
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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 within purpose-built classrooms.

The children's home can accommodate up to 20 young people, who are aged between 10 and 17 years. The 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 a sports hall, fitness suite, music studio, vocational skills zone and outdoor play areas.

### 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 outstanding.

One requirement and one recommendation were made at the last inspection. These have been fully addressed. One new area for improvement has been raised as part of this inspection.

At the last inspection, the registered persons were required to ensure that the effectiveness of the measure is accurately recorded by all staff in sanction records. Records show that this matter has been fully addressed and this means that any

sanctions used are evaluated to show that they have a positive effect in assisting young people to develop their social skills.

The registered persons were also asked to ensure that summary reports of monitoring undertaken by the Registered Manager are sent to Ofsted at six monthly intervals and within 28 days of completion. The Registered Manager has sent a summary report to Ofsted. The report is thorough and detailed. It shows an evaluation of the care provided to young people and identifies any areas where further improvements can be made.

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 Registered Manager has worked with the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) to further strengthen links. A member of the LSCB will now attend the external Scrutiny and Strategy Board hosted by the local authority. This board regularly examines the care, education and financial aspects of the centre, providing a source of feedback and oversight that assists the centre to improve its services to young people.

All education staff and the majority of care staff have now been trained in the area of speech, language and communication. This supports staff to undertake an assessment of young people's needs in these areas, developing a clear plan to meet those needs and improve outcomes. Delivery of this work may include assistance from relevant health professionals.

The centre has developed a tracking system that is linked to behaviour management and the incentive scheme for young people. This enables staff to record on an electronic system young people's achievements in line with the incentive scheme and any behaviour management plan. Any trends, patterns or areas of need can easily be identified using this system and this enables managers and keyworkers to effectively plan additional help and interventions for young people. This further supports young people to develop positive social skills and behaviour. Additionally, young people are able to contribute to the records with their keyworkers via a laptop linked to the centre's wireless network.

Work has progressed between care and education staff in developing communication and a more joined up approach to delivering a package to young people in preparation for adulthood. Staff have improved communication and work together more effectively to provide young people with the relevant skills and knowledge they will need for the transition to adulthood.

Young people spoke with high regard about the centre. One young person stated the centre is 'outstanding.' They went on to state, 'this is the best place I've ever been; the staff care and when I'm angry and upset they take time to talk to me.' A young person spoke proudly of their educational achievements and how well they have done since coming to stay at the centre. They spoke positively about activities at the centre stating, 'I've tried lots of things I wouldn't have tried before I came here.'

There is one area for further improvement identified at this inspection. The centre has procedures for escape from custody and about release on temporary licence, which includes what to do if a young person absconds. Staff also have access to the local authority's running away and missing from home protocol. However, the centre does not have an abscond procedure that sets out in detail all the matters in national minimum standards for children's homes, the Children Act 1989 Volume 5 and statutory guidance on children who run away and go missing from home or care. There have been no absconding incidents since the last inspection and the impact of this issue upon young people is minimal.

## **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 the Runaway and Missing from Home and Care (RMFHC) protocols; specifically, ensure that the centre's absconding procedures are reviewed to ensure that they set out clearly the matters in National Minimum Standards for Children's Homes, 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 and Volume 5, statutory guidance, paragraph 2.81)

## 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*.