

## Inspection report for children's home

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<b>Unique reference number</b>	SC039213
<b>Inspection date</b>	16/01/2013
<b>Inspector</b>	Sandra Jacobs-Walls
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Interim
<b>Provision subtype</b>	Children's home

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<b>Date of last inspection</b>	22/06/2012
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## Service information

### Brief description of the service

This registered children's home provides services for six young people, of either gender who may have 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 **good progress**.

This home is currently judged as adequate overall and is judged to be making good progress at this interim inspection. Outcomes for young people are positive and the service has successfully addressed all requirements and the majority of recommendations raised at the previous inspection. One recommendation is made as a result of this inspection.

Improvements to the home's service is noted in some key areas. The previous inspection noted concern for young people's lack of engagement in educational opportunities. Currently all young people attend school or other educational facilities. Staff continue to encourage young people to pursue their educational goals and offer appropriate levels of support. This helps to keep young people motivated with their learning opportunities and promotes educational success.

The Registered Manager of the home now consistently completes Regulation 34 monitoring reports. This was not the case previously. The home's monitoring reports are completed on a monthly basis and is forward to Ofsted as required. The home's Regulation 34 review cover all matters as outlined in Schedule 6 of the Regulations. This monitoring system is effective and this assists staff to have insight, review and

improve upon service provision.

All staff now have completed appraisals these are well documented in staff personnel files. This is important to ensure that staff performance and development issues can be appropriately assessed and weaknesses addressed. This in turn acts to enhance the home's quality of care. Since the last inspection staff have either obtained required child care qualifications or have been enrolled on appropriate training courses. This is important to ensure staff skills, knowledge and practice is in line with recent government guidance and to ensure that they are able to offer young people a good standard of care.

The home has also addressed most of the recommendations made at the last inspection, with the exception of one. The service now has in place a revised child protection policy that is appropriately detailed and compliant with legislation. This policy however is yet to be shared with the host local authority as required and requested at the last inspection. The home's staff disciplinary procedure has been revised and now clearly separates staff disciplinary processes from child protection enquiries.

Young people feel they are making steady progress at the home and feel the home's services meet their needs well. Young people and staff share a trusting relationship, which helps young people explore openly placement issues. They feel safe at the home and have confidence that staff are able to protect them. Bullying is not an issue for the home and young people are generally respectful with each other. Staff work effectively to address young people's unacceptable behaviour. Young people are engaged in education and live healthy lifestyles. There have been no incidents of restraint since the last inspection. Young people benefit from clear policies and procedures in place if they are away from the home without permission. They enjoy their surroundings and feel the home is well run.

Staff of the home demonstrate a commitment to continue to improve service provision. Good progress has been made to enhance the home's quality of care which impacts positively on outcomes for young people.

## **Areas for improvement**

### **Recommendations**

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

- submit the home's child protection procedures to the Local Safeguarding Children's Board and to the Local Authority Designated Officer for consideration. (NMS 20.4)

## 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*.