

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC431799
Inspection date	16/01/2013
Inspector	Anna Williams
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	21/08/2012
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Service information

Brief description of the service

The service is a two-bedded children's home registered for boys with emotional and behavioural difficulties.

The home is owned and operated by a private organisation that specialises in the assessment and treatment of male adolescents who have experienced some form of abuse and have subsequently been involved in perpetrating abusive behaviour themselves.

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**.

At the last full inspection this home was judged to be adequate. The home demonstrates a continued improvement in the quality of care. All the requirements have been fully met. The vast majority of recommendations have been fully addressed. There are no requirements or recommendations raised as part of this inspection.

Young people are very positive about the care they receive in the home. They feel safe and listened to. There have been no complaints since the last inspection.

The sanctions record has been revised. It now captures the effectiveness of any consequence set. This enables the manager to review how successful a measure of control is and take action if necessary. Positively, the use of sanctions is low.

Regulation 34 reports are undertaken on a six-monthly basis. Feedback is now proactively sought from placing authorities. This feedback supports the manager to reflect on the quality of care and drive forward improvement.

There has been a significant reduction in the number of staff working within the home. A small consistent core team now undertakes most shifts. This benefits young people's attachments.

A young person's personal document which was missing, has now been found. The provider has now fully reviewed the policy for taking young people's records out of the home. Furthermore, a new handover document is now used between school and the home. This supports the safe keeping of records and young people's information.

A policy on aggression and violence guides staff on police involvement when dealing with challenging behaviours. However, this policy has not yet been shared with and agreed by the local police. Confirmation by the police of the appropriateness of the policy will support the approach of not criminalising young people unnecessarily.

Young people have been on a successful holiday trip. This supports their social and personal development. Young people have been involved in the recruitment of new staff. This demonstrates to young people that their views are important. Young people benefit from a home which has had new carpets, fresh paintwork, a renovated bathroom and new soft furnishings. This provides a homely and comfortable environment to live in. Some young people are now engaged in community based groups. This provides opportunities to make new friends and develop talents. Some young people show good progress in managing their own emotions and feelings. Consequently, incidents within the home have significantly reduced.

Progress towards the home's development plan is good. Since the last inspection, staff have attended breakaway training to support the behaviour management of young people. This ensures that staff are equipped with the skills to safely care for young people who show behaviours that can be physically challenging at times. A revised placement plan system has now been implemented. This includes a young person's own child-friendly version of their placement plan. This supports young people in understanding and engaging with their own care plan.

The home has a manager in post who has an application in progress with Ofsted. This will offer the home stable leadership.

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*.