

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC397933
Inspection date	21/01/2013
Inspector	Susan Mullin
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	05/07/2012
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Service information

Brief description of the service

This children's home is privately-owned and offers placements for two young people who may have a combination of mental health, psychological, emotional or complex care needs that present challenging behaviour. The service is designed to offer medium- to long-term care placements. The home's programme of care generally incorporates a structured balance of education, recreation and therapeutic interventions tailored to meet individual needs. The small scale of the home permits sufficient flexibility to adjust to changing placement circumstances.

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 inspection in July 2012, the home was judged to be good. No statutory requirements or recommendations were made at the last inspection. Since then the home has demonstrated continued improvement in the quality of care and outcomes for young people. This includes young people making good progress in their educational achievements and demonstrating better behaviour.

Young people continue to make good educational, social and emotional progress and they receive a good quality care. Young people attend and do well in education; they enjoy a range of activities and maintain meaningful relationships with staff. Joint working between staff, young people and professionals is a strong feature in this home. As a result, young people are able to understand more about their backgrounds and learn to deal with the difficulties they have been faced with during their formative years.

Young people make significant progress in all aspects of their lives and are increasingly becoming aware of how their own choices and actions impact upon their lives. Young people are supported to develop mature responses to anger, frustration and disappointment and increasingly express their feelings more positively. The staff team have a good knowledge of young people's personal histories and are able to implement effective care planning for each individual young person in their care. As a result, young people gain in confidence and begin to see how they can successfully move forward to a brighter future.

The Registered Manager and staff continue to further develop the standard of care provided and strive to improve all outcomes for young people. Staff development is ongoing and all staff are suitably supervised by senior staff. Young people benefit by a well-trained, competent staff team, who put safeguarding at the forefront of their practice.

An ongoing programme of redecoration ensures this home is always maintained at a good standard throughout. Since the last inspection the home has had new curtains fitted in the lounge and a new carpet in the staff office. The home has also recently installed the internet for use by the young people to meet their educational and social needs. The environment is homely, with space for young people to see visitors in private.

The home has a comprehensive Statement of Purpose, which clearly details what the service offers to young people and this is reviewed yearly. There is a development plan in place, which is currently under review to strengthen plans for the future of the service. Ofsted has been informed of issues and progress at the home through inspection visits and notification of significant events. These show a well-managed service that is realistic about its strengths and weaknesses.

The manager monitors the operation of the home each month, to ensure quality of care is maintained. In addition, the organisation employs an independent external visitor to scrutinise the quality of care provided. The visitor provides a report to the home so the manager and staff can address any actions identified in a timely manner.

The home is operating in accordance with its conditions of registration and the registered persons remain fit for registration. No requirements or recommendations were made at this inspection.

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*.