

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	26/02/2013
Inspector	Valerie Shephard
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	05/12/2012
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Service information

Brief description of the service

This home is privately owned and provides care and accommodation for up to five young males. It is registered to provide care and accommodation for young people with emotional and behavioural difficulties. There is a small school on site which acquired DfE registration in July 2012.

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**.

This interim inspection has focused on the progress made by the home since the last full inspection when the overall judgement was good. The home has made good progress in all areas which improves the quality of care and outcomes for young people.

The manager has addressed the one requirement and two recommendations made at the last inspection. The requirement related to amending the Statement of Purpose to include the home's procedure when young people go missing from home. Additional information is now included which clearly states what actions the home will take in such an event. The two recommendations pertained to the recording of staff supervision and the safe keeping of confidential information on young people's files. Actions are complete in respect of both of these recommendations. The introduction of a new supervision sheet ensures that there is a record of the duration of each supervision session. This measure supports good practice in relation to the monitoring of staff performance through supervision. Regarding the safe keeping of confidential information, a full audit of all care files has taken place to ensure the

correct filing of documents. This means that young people's confidential information is safe and only accessible by those who are entitled to it.

The home continues to offer good quality care to assist young people to develop emotional resilience and to address their offending. Experienced and well-qualified staff work actively with therapists and teaching staff to provide a holistic therapeutic environment to young people. Young people engage fully with their therapy and there is evidence of trust building between them and the staff team. Young people follow a graduated programme which enables them to spend increasingly longer periods of time unsupervised within appropriate safety constraints. This programme serves to equip young people with the skills necessary to enable them to eventually live safely in the community.

Outcomes for young people are excellent. All young people are in school or college and attendance is exceptional, assisted by on-site educational provision. All are making encouraging progress in their education commensurate with their starting point in the home. Young people continue to acquire independence skills, subject to their age and stage of development. For example all young people are required to keep their bedrooms clean and tidy, sort their laundry and strip their beds. For the older residents input into cooking meals is encouraged. Staff expertly guide young people and assist them to develop their independence skills which has a positive effect on their confidence.

Young people benefit by the provision of a wide range of activities for exercise and leisure. There is a strong focus in the home on physical pursuits such as football, swimming, walking, bouldering and badminton. The home's ethos is to widen young people's experiences by encouraging involvement in activities they may not have previously had access to. Staff nurture young people's interests and talents in areas such as music, art and design. Young people try new things and as a result acquire new skills, confidence in their abilities and aspirations for the future. The home has arranged visits from support agencies such as those concerned with drug awareness, and training and career options. This input provides young people with information to assist them to make good choices as they grow and develop towards independence.

The home has a full complement of staff, however has recently appointed additional ancillary workers. This ensures there is always sufficient staff available to care for the young people without recourse to employing unfamiliar temporary workers. The appointment of a permanent headteacher and additional school staff strengthens the provision of consistent management between home and school. These measures provide consistency of care for young people which enhance the development of trust and positive attachments.

Young people are safe in the home and say they feel safe. The manager ensures staff have access to training that enhances their individual skills to meet the needs of young people. An example of this is the provision of recent training in relation to risk management within the home. This training assists staff to recognise and take action to safeguard those at risk from other young people in the home. The introduction of

a new safeguarding tool provides better internet security by preventing the downloading of inappropriate material by young people. These measures help to create a safer environment for young people living in the home.

This Registered Manager provides strong leadership and is committed to drive improvements forward for the benefit of the young people. There is good oversight of the running of the home and evidence of regular consultation with young people. There are realistic targets for future development, for example in relation to staffing and the provision of annual holidays. All these measures help to ensure that young people are cared for well and their individual needs met.

The home is subject to regular maintenance and consequently provides a safe and comfortable living environment. Recent re-decoration of the main areas of the home has created a pleasant and welcoming setting and young people say they like living in the home.

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*.