

## Inspection report for children's home

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<b>Unique reference number</b>	SC035409
<b>Inspection date</b>	19/02/2013
<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>	15/08/2012
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## Service information

### Brief description of the service

This secure children's home is managed by a local authority. It is approved by the Department for Education to restrict young people's liberty. Education is provided on site.

The children's home provides two separate units that can accommodate up to 12 young people who are aged between 10 and 17 years. Admission of any young person over the age of 10 but under 13 years of age requires the approval of the Secretary of State.

### 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 August 2012, the overall effectiveness rating was judged adequate; two requirements and four recommendations were made. The two requirements and three of the four recommendations have been fully addressed. One recommendation has not been fully addressed.

At the last inspection, the registered person was required to ensure that all persons employed receive appropriate supervision. Records show that all staff now receive a good level of support through regular, formal supervision. This assists staff to deliver good quality care to young people.

The registered person was also required to ensure that they robustly monitor absconding and disciplinary records and identify and act upon any areas for

improvement. The Registered Manager has regularly checked these records and done this. This process ensures the quality of care is routinely assessed and improvements are made, leading to better outcomes for young people.

A recommendation was made at the last inspection that where sanctions are used, young people have the opportunity to have their views recorded in the records kept by the home. Staff now ensure that whenever sanctions are used, young people have the opportunity to either write their views about the measure used, or have staff record this for them. This promotes young people's rights and assists them to develop understanding and responsibility.

The registered person was asked to ensure that records relating to absconding are detailed and reflect good practice as detailed in statutory guidance. This has been fully addressed. There has been one incident of absconding since the last inspection. Records of this incident are detailed and reflect the unit staff's best practice. This demonstrates how staff support young people to stay safe.

A recommendation was made at the last inspection that the unit develops a policy that provides for regular searching of communal areas and a policy that provides for personal searches of young people, including the types of searches associated with the prevailing risk. This matter has been fully addressed. Policies are now available and have been agreed and endorsed by the Local Safeguarding Children Board. Associated records of searches demonstrate that the policy is being followed by staff. This ensures young people's rights are promoted and a policy framework supports good practice to safeguard young people.

The registered person was asked at the last inspection to provide young people with the opportunity to read and add a permanent comment to the record of their separation. This matter has not been fully addressed. Although records have been amended to provide a dedicated space for young people to add their comments, in practice young people are not consistently afforded the opportunity to do so. This does not promote young people's rights or support them to develop understanding and responsibility.

Since the last inspection, further progress has been made that enhances the quality of care provided to young people and promotes positive outcomes. A theatre group has worked with young people about a number of areas, such as music, knife crime workshops and developing skills for adulthood. Young people very much enjoyed working with the theatre group and this has benefited them in a number of ways. For example, support to cope with loss and bereavement, developing understanding of their identity and improved self-confidence and self-esteem. A DVD was developed with the young people so they have a permanent record of this experience that they can reflect on in the future.

A fitness suite has been built and is now in use. Staff are trained in the use of the equipment and in designing health and fitness programmes for young people to promote healthy lifestyles and well-being. Young people use the fitness suite regularly and enjoy using the equipment to stay fit, healthy and well. In addition to

physical exercise, young people spoke positively about the healthy and balanced diet provided by the unit. They spoke of the support they receive that promotes good health and well-being.

The unit has been visited by army personnel. They delivered anti-bullying workshops to young people to increase their awareness and understanding of bullying, its effects and how to stay safe. They also provided young people with an insight and information on career opportunities that will support young people in making choices in their adult lives.

## **Areas for improvement**

### **Recommendations**

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

- provide young people with the opportunity to read and add a permanent comment to the record of their separation. (NMS 23.12)

## 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*.