

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC052946
Inspection date	20/03/2013
Inspector	Jennie Christopher
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	13/11/2012
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Service information

Brief description of the service

This home is owned and run by a private organisation and provides care and accommodation for five young people with emotional or behavioural difficulties.

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 in November 2012, the overall quality rating for the service was judged as outstanding with no requirements or recommendations made. The home demonstrates continued improvement in the quality of care provided and a clear commitment to service development. A particular strength of the home is the strong management team and enthusiastic staff team, who all strive to provide a positive and nurturing environment for young people. Staff say they feel well supported and enjoy working in the home as 'young people are treated with respect.' Young people suggest that the home is 'excellent' and that staff encourage and support them to succeed in all areas, including education. Young people find this really 'good' when they are feeling negative about their abilities. Young people continue to benefit from well-planned, individualised care and support to manage their emotions and consider how best to cope with negative feelings and behaviours. Examples include in-depth 'staying safe' sessions, and proactive work regarding substance misuse. Evidence demonstrates small, yet significant improvements young people have made in these areas. These include remaining in telephone contact when they have not returned home by the agreed time and unprompted open discussion regarding the effects of substance misuse. Young people are supported to constructively challenge aspects of their plans they are unhappy with through staff

and external advocacy. They are equipped with the tools to do this as independently as possible to ensure they can manage conflict effectively when they move on from the home. The culture within the home celebrates individuality and diversity. As a result, young people enjoy exploring a diverse range of cultural experiences and a sound understanding of each other's heritage.

Evaluation of the home and service since the last inspection has informed plans for the coming year. As a result the staff team have started to undertake targeted training in areas such as mental health in young people and Autism awareness, with further training planned. The training has improved staff awareness and understanding of emotional wellbeing, and enabled staff to further support young people who are declining specialised emotional health services. Additionally, young people are now being included in staff training, such as food hygiene and first aid to help develop their newly implemented records of achievement. These records have been implemented to support young people to recognise their achievements and aide them in gaining further education placements or employment. Development plans for the home include creating further leisure areas and a specialised individual and one to one workroom. Evaluative reports of independent monitoring visits and six monthly monitoring by managers demonstrate consultation with young people, staff and other significant people.

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*.