

## Inspection report for children's home

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<b>Unique reference number</b>	SC022448
<b>Inspection date</b>	22/10/2013
<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>	17/04/2013
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## Service information

### Brief description of the service

The centre is operated by a voluntary organisation. It is registered as a secure children's home and is approved by the Secretary of State to provide secure care and accommodation. Education is provided on site and facilities include outdoor exercise areas and a sports hall.

The centre can accommodate 12 young people of either gender from 10 years to seventeen years of age in two purpose built living units. Admission of a young person 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 April 2013, the overall effectiveness rating was judged good; two recommendations were made. Both recommendations have been fully addressed.

At the last inspection, the registered person was asked to ensure that reports of visits by independent persons under regulation 33 provide evaluation that determines whether the home provides stable, safe and secure care. Reports are now reflective of the strengths of the home, areas for improvement and show an assessment of the quality of care being provided. This assists the manager and staff to improve the service provided to young people.

The registered person was also asked to ensure that the minutes of young people's

meetings include recorded responses to matters raised. Minutes now clearly show what the response is by managers to young people's requests, views and opinions of their care and life at the home. Managers clearly record where a matter has been actioned and also record where a request cannot be granted, giving reasons so young people are fully informed. Additionally, staff put information on each house unit that shows what young people asked for and what has been done about it.

There have been two incidents of absconding since the last inspection. Both incidents were by young people on planned and arranged visits out of the home to the local community. Staff followed the home's procedure and relevant people and professionals were notified. The young people were found very quickly and returned to the home. Full records are kept of such matters and these reflect action taken in line with the joint protocol and statutory guidance. This shows that practice is of a good quality and helps to keep young people safe.

Three staff have been recruited since the last inspection. The home has a clear process in place for the employment of new staff. Records kept show the process is robust and that staff employed are suitable to work with vulnerable children and young people.

Since the last inspection, further progress has been made that enhances the quality of care provided to young people and promotes positive outcomes. Risk assessments that identify young people's vulnerability and how they will be kept safe are regularly formally reviewed. In addition to this, managers now formally review every risk assessment on a weekly basis to ensure they are robust, fit for purpose, sufficiently detailed and help staff to keep young people safe.

When planning for young people's transition to new placements, escort services have been used to take young people on introductory visits. This has recently changed and staff from the home now take young people on these visits. This provides young people with additional reassurance and support during this important time of their lives.

The sports hall is now fully operational. This means young people have access to a range of extra and different activities, such as football and badminton, through the use of a good size activity area. Young people regularly use the sports hall promoting their enjoyment, health and wellbeing.

## 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*.