

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC031490
Inspection date	11/02/2014
Inspector	Gaynor Moorey
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Secure Unit

Date of last inspection	09/09/2013
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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. As well as the living accommodation, there are facilities for administration and education provided on the site.

The children's home can accommodate up to five 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.

This inspection has the purpose of informing the Secretary of State on the continuing suitability for this provision to operate as a secure unit to restrict children's liberty.

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**.

The home has made good progress since the last full inspection in September 2013; when the judgement for overall effectiveness was good, and the outcomes across all four areas were also good. The home received one requirement at the last inspection in regard to the behaviour management policy which needed to set out the measures of control, restraint and discipline which may be used in the home. The home has met this requirement and a updated policy is in place and staff are retraining in the use of restraint. The home received no recommendations or requirements at this inspection.

Young people enjoy consistent professional relationships with the staff. Staff receive training and have a good and comprehensive knowledge of working with young people. Young people are able to benefit greatly from making relationships and building trust with staff in order to move on with their lives, learn new skills and have new experiences while feeling safe and secure.

The majority of young people attend the on-site educational provision, with one young person commendably attending college in the community. This is a very positive step in preparation for transition to the community. Young people's independence is promoted by learning new skills and self-management.

Young people have their health needs met and promoted by the staff. The home has recently started having both a psychology and a nursing service on site. Young people have benefited from this which has helped with their confidence and self-esteem.

Young people at the home have very different and specific needs. As a result a detailed assessment of each young person is undertaken. This includes considering their educational attainment, emotional, psychological and individual diverse needs identified. Staff have devised improved individual positive support plans and comprehensive risk assessments, which have been shared with the young people. As a result young people are more aware of the concerns staff have about their behaviour and reaction to issues.

The home had a new build which opened in September 2013 with the outdoor areas being completed in November 2013. As a result the environment has had many positive changes to the facilities young people can be offered. However issues have been raised that have caused some concern. On-going support and maintenance have meant that these have been resolved. The building continues to be reviewed and any issues are dealt with to ensure the young people's well-being while at the home.

The acting manager has been in place for two months and has looked to improve systems, policy and practice. This has included looking at the issues that led to a serious incident in the home and the impact of this on staff.

Staff have for example been updating their mandatory training such as child protection, restraint techniques and managing challenging behaviour. Alongside this all of the policies and procedures are being updated to ensure practice helps keep young people and staff safe.

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*.