

## Inspection report for children's home

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<b>Unique reference number</b>	SC020171
<b>Inspection date</b>	05/02/2014
<b>Inspector</b>	Rosemary Chapman
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Interim
<b>Provision subtype</b>	Children's home

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<b>Date of last inspection</b>	15/05/2013
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## Service information

### Brief description of the service

The home offers long-term care for up to seven children and young people with emotional and behavioural difficulties. A private company operates this home alongside its other home.

### 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 full inspection, which was undertaken in May 2013, the home was judged outstanding. The judgement of this inspection is that it continues to make good progress. Although no requirements or recommendations were set at the previous inspection, the manager has continued to improve the quality of care and young people are making good progress in all aspects of their lives. This is confirmed by an independent reviewing officer, who reflected that, 'the home is meeting the young person's needs to an exceptional level', and a social worker who said, 'I am delighted with the young person's progress.' Parents also recognise the changes in their children's lives. One parent commented that a young person is 'like a different person now', and another parent said, 'all changes are positive'. Young people also acknowledge the progress they make, saying, 'we are all doing really well here.'

Young people who have formerly been out of education or in the on-site school, attend mainstream school where this is possible. A social worker commented, 'the staff have done tremendous work getting my young person into mainstream school.' This gives them greater opportunity to socialise with their peers, as well as having the experience of going to a larger school. Young people really appreciate this

opportunity and are doing well, particularly when considering their previous histories in education. As a result, young people have many friends in the community who visit the home and who are visited at their family homes. This has even resulted in a young person hosting a party at the home for 40 friends, which was a great success.

Young people are very engaged in the community and enjoy a wide range of activities. Some are very good footballers and play for local teams; others play rugby, attend youth clubs and drama clubs and enjoy dancing. This plays a significant part in raising their self-esteem and self-confidence as well as being a constructive and healthy use of their time.

Young people are fully involved in their care planning and therefore understand what is happening to them and can shape this. Care plans and risk assessments are of a high quality, regularly reviewed and demonstrate that young people contribute their views. Young people are also regularly consulted about how they think they are progressing and what they think of the home.

Young people like living at this home. They speak very fondly of the staff and their experiences. One said it was 'like being one big family'. They all get on with each other, there is no bullying and they feel safe. They are kept safe by excellent staff practice which is underpinned by training and a strong understanding of the types of risks young people face and the protective strategies to use. Young people no longer engage in risk-taking behaviour such as going missing. Occasionally they are late back but keep in touch with staff to let them know they are safe.

Behaviour is well managed and there is minimal use of restraint. When used, it has been used in appropriate circumstances but the tamper-proof volume does not contain all the information required by the Children's Homes Regulations 2001. This shortfall has no impact on young people as the information is recorded elsewhere.

There have been a number of developments since the last inspection. Young people have access to improved leisure facilities within the home as the games room has been completed. Medication practices are safer as the manager has established closer and more effective working relationships with the local GPs' surgery and strengthened the audit system for medication recording. Young people are more involved in their young people's meetings as they now take the chair and it is a more open forum for discussion. They are also involved in national developments, so they can contribute to policy in relation to children's social care by sharing their experiences in a national arena. Young people are now encouraged to make a regular saving from their financial rewards so they have a lump sum of money when they leave care and are therefore more financially secure.

The manager is an inspirational leader who motivates staff to provide high quality care and support. He is tenacious and a strong advocate for the young people in his care, demonstrating challenge to local authorities and other agencies when he sees they are not doing their best for their young people. He is constantly looking for ways to improve the service. A member of staff commented: 'He is a great manager.'

He is all for the young people and wants the best for them.' This is recognised by stakeholders, one of whom said: 'There is commitment to achieving good outcomes'.

## Areas for improvement

### Statutory Requirements

This section sets out the actions which must be taken so that the registered person/s meets the Care Standards Act 2000, Children's Homes Regulations 2001 and the National Minimum Standards. The registered person(s) must comply with the given timescales.

Reg.	Requirement	Due date
17B (2001)	ensure that within 24 hours of the use of any measure of control, restraint or discipline, a written record is made in a volume kept for the purpose which shall include all the elements of this regulation. (Regulation 17B (3) and (4))	28/03/2014

## 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*.