

## Inspection report for children's home

---

<b>Unique reference number</b>	SC013402
<b>Inspection date</b>	18/02/2014
<b>Inspector</b>	Cheryl Carter
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Interim
<b>Provision subtype</b>	Children's home

---

<b>Date of last inspection</b>	21/10/2013
--------------------------------	------------

---

© Crown copyright 2014

Website: [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)

This document may be reproduced in whole or in part for non-commercial educational purposes, provided that the information quoted is reproduced without adaptation and the source and date of publication are stated.

## Service information

### Brief description of the service

This children's home is a purpose-built complex run by a registered charity in partnership with a local authority. The home provides short stay services to children and young people who have high support needs. The home is split into two units; it provides services for up to 12 children and young people at any one time.

### 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 **satisfactory progress**.

The home's overall effectiveness was judged as adequate in October 2013. Judgements of adequate in two out of four outcome areas, with outcomes for children and young people and quality of care judged as good.

The requirements made were in relation to ensuring that all staff know what to do in case of a fire; especially in relation to night time fire drills, as well as ensuring that the regulation 33 visits are completed and sent to Ofsted in line with regulations. One of the two requirements has been fully met and this progress means that all staff including the night staff know the procedures to follow in the event of the fire bell sounding. The requirement in relation to the regulation 33 visits and reporting is not fully met. No reports have been received for December and January, although there is evidence that the Regulation 33 visits are conducted. There seem to be a pattern emerging that the regulation reports from this home are being sent to Ofsted every two months, which is not in line with regulations.

In respect to the recommendations made at the full inspection, the home has undertaken a programme of refurbishment. This has made a difference, and the home is now well decorated. Maintenance of the home is on-going. The management has also addressed the issue of responsibilities in the absence of the manager to ensure that all staff are clear about the lines of accountability.

Although not all of the issues are fully met there has been satisfactory progress made since the last inspection. There were no young people present in the unit on the day of this inspection. The manager stated that; 'It's half term and the staff and young people are out on an activity.'

Monitoring systems for training have been improved to ensure that young people are cared for by suitably knowledgeable staff. The manager has audited the staff training and has highlighted training that is needed by the staff team. The manager also identifies training for staff that will address young people's presenting and emerging needs.

According to the manager young people are happy in the home. Relationships between young people and staff are positive, warm and friendly. The home continues to provide good quality care and support. Young people are supported where appropriate to learn independent living skills preparing them for adulthood. One social worker commented that one young person's social skills are improving.

Young people have the opportunity to contribute to the running of the home via one to one interaction with the staff and by filling out surveys that are sent to their parents. This is a respite unit so parents and carers maintain responsibility for the health and education of their children.

The Registered Manager has a clear understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of the home. She keeps the Statement of Purpose under review, ensuring that it reflects the current practice and staffing establishment of the home. She ensures that all staff are fully aware of these reviews so that young people receive appropriate care. The home's management team continue to strive for improvement and development for the benefit of the young people living at the home.

The manager of the home carries out audits of the training to ensure that all staff training continues to improve in line with the changing needs of the young people using the service. The home ensures that young people using the service are placed with others with whom they are compatible. This minimises the potential for conflict and demonstrates a robust approach to planning for each young person's stay. Individual placement planning ensures that young people get the best out of their time in the home.

There is one requirement arising from this inspection. This requirement is repeated from the previous inspection as Regulation 33 reports are not sent into Ofsted in a timely manner. These delays in submitting the monitoring reports could mean that Ofsted is not informed about issues promptly.

Children and young people have continued to receive good quality care and support that enhance their progress. They are well supported to engage in activities when they stay at the home and receive relevant personalised support according to their care plans.

## 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*.