

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	12/03/2014
Inspector	Sarah Oldham
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	13/12/2013
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Service information

Brief description of the service

The home is one of a number of children's homes run by a private organisation. This home provides medium- to long-term care for up to four young people of either sex, between the ages of 11 and 17 years.

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 full inspection in December 2013 the home was judged to be good. Since that time, the home has continued to support young people in a nurturing and positive manner.

Three recommendations were made at the previous inspection. The actions taken to meet these recommendations have improved the quality of the service for young people.

Young people are consulted with regards their care plan and how their needs will be met at the home. However, these documents are quite lengthy and young people did not always wish to read through them in depth and sign them. To enable young people to be fully aware of their care plans, staff, alongside the young people have developed 'child friendly' summaries of their care plans. This enables young people of all ages and abilities to be fully included in discussing their care needs and future plans.

The manager has reviewed how the records of physical interventions and sanctions

are maintained. Each young person has their own individual section of the sanction book. This means that when a sanction or positive reward has been put in place, young people are able to comment and sign in confidence that this information remains confidential to them. Physical interventions are recorded using separate pages of the bound book for young people and also provides young people the opportunity to record their comments confidentially.

All young people have statutory reviews within agreed timescales. Previously, the home was experiencing some difficulty in obtaining copies of these records within realistic timescales. The manager and deputy manager have introduced a system to record when documentation was requested and what they have done to follow up any documentation that has not been received. This enables them to work within clear timescales to get this information. This means that young people continue to receive care and support as identified to meet their needs and recommendations made at review meetings are followed up in agreed timescales to further promote positive outcomes for young people.

Young people say that they get on well with staff. They feel safe, happy and make very positive comments about the way that they are cared for. For example; one young person said 'staff are really good here and I am making plans for my future which they are supporting me with. They help me to understand how to keep myself safe and I know I can talk to them about any worries that I have.' Bullying is not identified by the young people as a problem. One young person said 'we get on well with each other most of the time. If we fall out, staff speak to us so that we can sort it out together.'

Young people benefit from receiving good levels of care provided by an established staff team. The home has not had to use agency staff and due to the continuity of support and levels of care, young people are making positive progress. One social worker said 'staff have supported (name) to settle in well at the home and the level of care provided has made a real impact for (name) in such a short space of time. Staff provide weekly reports identifying progress made and areas for on-going support. The teachers at school have commented positively on the placement and the improvement in the young person's behaviour.

All young people attend education or training schemes and, from their initial starting point, are making good progress. Attendance levels have increased for the vast majority of young people. Where there are any shortfalls, staff are proactive in addressing this by working in partnership with educational settings and placing social workers to provide positive support to enable young people to engage fully with their education to improve their chances in later life.

The home is effectively managed to ensure young people achieve positive outcomes. The established and experienced staff team say that they receive regular individual supervision as well as having weekly full staff meetings where additional training is provided to complement their formal training and development. An example of this includes updated training on positive handling and behaviour management. Staff receive formal training and refresher training on an annual basis. However, physical

intervention is rarely used and in discussion with the staff team, the manager identified that staff would like to refresh their knowledge in case the need to physical intervene to protect a young person from harm to themselves or others is required. This has been arranged for the next weekly staff meeting. This means staffs training and knowledge underpins their practice in caring for young people.

No requirements or recommendations have been made as a result of this inspection.

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*.