

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC047894
Inspection date	11/03/2014
Inspector	Susan Southey
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	03/10/2013
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Service information

Brief description of the service

This is a privately owned service which provides care and accommodation for up to four young people with emotional and behavioural difficulties. The service houses a specific facility of education in an independent school linked to the house.

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 last inspection in October 2013, the home was judged as adequate. There have been considerable improvements made since this time. Actions raised included four requirements and three recommendations. The Registered Manager has demonstrated commitment to addressing these shortfalls, meeting all fully. Monthly internal monitoring of the home takes place. The manager evaluates this at regular intervals and completes summary reports. This information identifies trends and patterns, giving the manager a clear picture of the home's strengths and weaknesses. This assists the Registered Manager to make improvements to the service, based on sound knowledge. This meets a requirement made at previous inspection.

The statement of purpose accurately reflects the service provided at this home, having been updated to include staff changes. This ensures that information given to young people and stakeholders is accurate. The revised copy has been submitted to Ofsted, which meets a requirement made at last inspection.

Young people demonstrate improved behaviour and positive rewards are the

preferred action to encourage good behaviour. Shortfalls that restrict young people's liberty have been addressed. Staff no longer use physical intervention to prevent them leaving the home and they have received refresher training and guidance booklets on the safe use of physical intervention. As a result, all incidents involving restraint of young people are appropriate. Recording of these events requires improvement, but it has minimal impact on the welfare of young people. Staff are appropriately trained and interventions have significantly reduced.

The home has improved safeguarding practice in the home. Staff have received training to keep young people safe. They have completed updated child protection and first aid training since the last inspection, meeting a recommendation made. Furthermore, they have attended training sessions on self-harm to enhance awareness of this behaviour. This knowledge supports the care of young people who present with self-harming behaviours. Regular fire drills take place, which ensures young people understand procedures to leave the building safely, should a fire take place. Their safety is promoted further with the introduction of individual evacuation plans. This supports young people's safe evacuation in emergencies.

Staffing of the home has increased with the recruitment of new staff. Changes in recruitment practice have improved the safeguarding of young people. The service verifies written references by phone to check authenticity. This practice makes the recruitment process more robust and promotes recruitment of staff with integrity and good character, promoting the safety of young people.

Young people make positive progress in education and attend regularly. Staff are committed to young people achieving academically. Since the last inspection they have attended youth education training. This improves the educational support they provide. All young people receive education at the service's school provision. Some young people have day release at college to complete vocational qualifications. This promotes better work opportunities in later life through learning skills relevant to their chosen careers.

Young people participate in a range of purposeful activities. Young people pursue personal hobbies by playing in community football teams and visiting local stables for horse riding. Some young people have learnt to swim because of this placement. This demonstrates that young people are actively involved in the community and benefit from regular exercise whilst engaging in enjoyable activities.

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
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<p>17B (2001)</p>	<p>ensure that a written record is made by the registered person within 24 hours of the use of any measure of control, restraint of discipline in a children's home, in a volume kept for the purpose which shall include all matters listed (a-i). ((Regulation 17b (3))</p>	<p>04/04/2014</p>
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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*.