

## Inspection report for children's home

---

<b>Unique reference number</b>	SC035352
<b>Inspection date</b>	24/03/2014
<b>Inspector</b>	Katarina Djordjevic
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Interim
<b>Provision subtype</b>	Children's home

---

<b>Date of last inspection</b>	09/01/2014
--------------------------------	------------

---

© 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

The home can accommodate up to eight young people with emotional and/or behaviour difficulties. The home is run by the local authority.

### 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**.

At the last inspection in January 2014 the overall quality rating for the service was judged as good. Two requirements were made regarding the wedging open of doors and the management of medication. Both requirements have been addressed. This reflects the staff team's desire and commitment to improve the quality of care provided. However, the judgement of satisfactory progress has been given due to a number of shortfalls.

Staff are now clear that doors must not be wedged open. This was discussed at a staff meeting to ensure all staff are aware of their responsibilities in this area. The Registered Manager has consulted with the Fire Officer on this matter. The home has ordered magnetic retainers which will be fitted to the office door and all bedroom doors. These measures help to protect young people and staff from the risk of harm.

Improvements have been made to the management of medication since the last inspection. A new medication policy has been produced and staff have received refresher training; this includes the management of medication errors. A new medication dispensing station is also on order which will mean there is a dedicated

area for the administration and recording of medication. A review of medication records by the inspector identified that practices were in line with procedures. As a result of these improvements, young people's health needs are being met and they are protected from the risk of harm.

Young people continue to make good progress given their starting points. They remain happy and settled in the home. This is because their relationships with staff are open and honest which enables young people to trust and have confidence in staff. Young people continue to be central to decision-making in their lives and in the running of the home; this increases their confidence and helps them to feel valued. Young people continue to make good progress in their education and in gaining access to training and employment. This is because staff are committed to supporting young people to improve their life opportunities.

New young people are made very welcome when they are admitted to the home. Staff spend time with them and explain the rules, routines and relevant procedures such as fire safety and the complaints procedures. This helps young people to settle quickly.

Young people continue to receive individualised support based on their needs. They are supported to access different services to ensure their holistic health needs are being met including psychological and emotional needs. However, the inspector identified a shortfall in recruitment practices which has the potential to place young people at risk of harm. The home does not have documentary evidence of recruitment checks for professionals who are commissioned to work with young people at the home but are not employed by the organisation.

Staff continue to work closely with the relevant agencies including the police where there are safeguarding issues. This helps to protect young people from the risk of harm and abuse. Records reflect this collaborative working. However, young people's placement plans and risk assessments are not always updated promptly when there has been a safeguarding incident. This has the potential to affect the ability of staff to meet all young people's needs and protect them from the risk of harm and abuse. Additionally, there is no documentary evidence to demonstrate that compatibility assessments have taken place regarding the existing group and new young people admitted to the home. This includes assessing the potential risks posed by some young people's behaviour. This makes it difficult to assess how all individual's needs have been assessed in terms of compatibility and how young people are protected.

Since the last inspection some young people have moved out of the home into supported living and foster care. These were positive moves for the individuals and reflect the progress they have made whilst living at the home. It also demonstrates that young people's views about their future were listened to and acted upon.

The promotion of independence continues to be at the forefront of practice and support and advice provided to young people takes into account risk management. Young people learn to take controlled risks in a nurturing environment in preparation

for adulthood and their next stages of life. As a result, they increase their daily living skills and their safety improves as they learn to take responsibility for their actions.

## 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
11 (2001)	promote and make proper provision for the welfare of young people; and make proper provision for the care, education, supervision and, where appropriate treatment of young people accommodated. This is with specific reference to ensuring young people's placement plans and risk assessments are updated promptly to reflect a change in needs and risks (Regulation 11 (1) (a) (b))	09/05/2014
11 (2001)	ensure that the children's home is conducted so as to make proper provision for the welfare of children accommodated there. This is in relation to assessing the impact of new referrals on the existing group of young people and providing documentary evidence of this assessment (Regulation 11 (1) (a))	09/05/2014
26 (2001)	ensure full and satisfactory information as detailed in Schedule 2 is obtained for any person who is employed by a person other than the registered person to work at the children's home in a position in which he may in the course of his duties have regular contact with children accommodated there. (Regulation 26 (3) (d))	09/05/2014

## 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*.