

Inspection report for children's home

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<b>Unique reference number</b>	SC355902
<b>Inspector</b>	Keith Riley
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Interim
<b>Provision subtype</b>	Children's home

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<b>Registered manager</b>	Andrew Brett Roberts
<b>Date of last inspection</b>	01/10/2014

<b>Inspection date</b>	24/03/2015
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Previous inspection	good
Enforcement action since last inspection	none

## This inspection

This home was judged good at the last full inspection. At this interim inspection Ofsted judge that it has **sustained effectiveness**.

Young people who present with severe emotional disturbance benefit from the best possible care. Staff, who are well trained and supported themselves, put the needs of young people at the centre of practice. The home's clinical psychologist provides careful and thoughtful oversight of the day-to-day work. Young people's immediate and ongoing needs are met through innovative ideas and bespoke arrangements. An example is providing a respite cottage for young people experiencing difficult and painful emotions. Young people are able to take a break from the daily pressure of life to reflect and come to terms with their life story. Young people are able to think more positively of their future and their anxiety significantly reduces. This means that behaviours that challenge are minimised. Other professionals speak very highly of the caring approach and the improvement to young people's emotional well-being. A professional stated, 'I am struck by the commitment, professionalism and loving care I have witnessed towards (name of young person).'

Staff are aware of the vulnerabilities of young people and are very clear what action to take should a missing person incident occur. They follow young people who are attempting to go missing. They stay in contact with young people, by phone as much as possible should they lose sight of them. A placing social worker stated, 'I am unaware of any other provider who will go to such great lengths to support young people.' There are good protocols with the local police and young people have their level of risk individually assessed. Some young people demonstrate significant improvements in their risk taking behaviour. However, other young people, with a prolific history of going missing, do not fully engage with the specialist services and the fulfilling, diversionary activities that are available to them. They make poor decisions and, on occasion, place themselves at risk while absent from the home. Such events are clearly delineated from unauthorised absence through updated risk assessments. This ensures there is a fast response, in conjunction with other professionals, when young people are making poor choices during disturbed

emotional periods of their lives.

The Registered Manager has introduced a system whereby the effectiveness of sanctions are clearly assessed and recorded. This ensures that any measure of discipline is not punitive but promotes positive behaviour. Young people benefit from other rewards, such as trips to premier league football stadiums, when they engage with the support that is offered to them. An example is being rewarded for attending a smoking-cessation clinic.

Safeguarding continues to be of paramount importance in this home. There is excellent record keeping, chronology of events and close working with other professionals. Any concerns that become known are dealt with swiftly and robustly. Young people are confident to make disclosures; they know they will be taken very seriously. Young people say they feel attached to staff and identify multiple staff members they feel comfortable talking to. An example is young people showing staff inappropriate messages received through social media. Vulnerable young people are kept as safe as possible in the cyber world. A placing social worker said staff are warm, friendly and responsive and that young people form strong attachments with them, especially their key worker.

Young people have a strong voice in this home. Their views, wishes and feelings are taken into account on a daily basis as well as through constructive and positive key work sessions. They are encouraged to use the robust complaints system if necessary. Four complaints since the last inspection have been made and all were taken seriously. Young people benefit from having their concerns thoroughly investigated with clear outcomes communicated to them.

There is a robust monitoring of the quality of care, both by the Registered Manager and an independent visitor. Young people's views are sought. This includes young people completing questionnaires on how they feel about individual members of staff. There are positive and constructive relationships as any issues are dealt with quickly. A placing social worker reported that staff are positive, energetic and committed to achieving the best outcomes for the young people they are caring for.

There is a creative approach to promoting independence. As well as learning practical skills, young people participate in programmes that prepare them psychologically for independent living.

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

## Information about this children's home

The setting offers care and accommodation for up to six young people with emotional or behavioural difficulties. The home is run by a private organisation.

## Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
01/10/2014	Full	good
26/03/2014	Interim	good progress
07/08/2013	Full	good
08/01/2013	Interim	good progress

## **What inspection judgements mean**

At the interim inspections we make a judgement on whether the home has improved in effectiveness, sustained effectiveness, or declined in effectiveness since the previous full inspection. This is in line with the *Inspection of children's homes: framework for inspection*.

## **Information 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 main strengths, any areas for improvement, including any breaches of regulation, and any failure to meet national minimum standards. The judgements included in the report are made against the framework of inspection for children's homes.