

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	14/01/2013
Inspector	Nicholas Murphy
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	17/07/2012
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Service information

Brief description of the service

The home accommodates up to five young people who may have emotional and/or behavioural difficulties. It is operated by a private company.

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 July 2012, the home was rated as good for overall effectiveness and three statutory requirements and two recommendations for improvement were made. These have all been addressed in full, resulting in a number of improvements in practice within the home.

The format of the restraint record now allows more detail to be included, such as, confirmation that young people and staff have been spoken to following each incident. This better safeguards the welfare of young people. The Registered Manager has revised the policy on young people using the telephone, ensuring that young people have better access to the telephone in private. Other records have been improved to meet requirements. In particular, assessments concerning the risk of individual young people going missing and the details of any such incidents are more comprehensive. This helps to keep young people safe and reduce the time that they are away from the home without permission.

Outcomes for young people continue to improve. All are doing well in education and training. Some young people have changed their minds about what they want to do having left school. Staff have supported them in making these choices and have

helped them secure other constructive training paths. Some young people have made significant strides in developing greater confidence and self-awareness. In addition, the home effectively helps older young people to develop the skills they will need to live independently. For example, there is a self-contained space within the home which enables a young person to gain some experience of what living on their own might feel like.

In general, young people enjoy good health. Staff help young people to access the right kind of medical intervention when necessary, including support in relation to their emotional and psychological needs. Young people stay in touch with their families. The arrangements outlined in care plans are implemented so that contact arrangements are safe for young people. The quality and quantity of contact has increased significantly for some young people as a result of the effective support given by the home.

Staff keep young people safe in the home and young people confirm that bullying is not an issue. Levels of supervision are appropriate and ensure that young people cannot cause harm to one another. Young people do not often go missing. Such incidents tend to be as a result of young people arriving back in the evening later than agreed. Behaviour is generally very good with physical restraint very rarely used. Staff successfully manage behaviour by discussing issues with young people in a way which helps them to reflect on their responsibilities and the consequences of their actions.

Staff encourage young people to make choices about everyday living arrangements, such as, what is for tea or how they spend their leisure time. Staff support and promote young people to pursue activities in which they show an interest. For example, one young person has a talent for singing, and performed at the provider's Christmas party in front of a large audience. Following this, the home has arranged for the young person to have vocal coaching, with the aim of fostering her ability and enhancing her self-esteem.

Young people say that staff are concerned for them and take time to listen. Staff involve young people in care planning. Because it is sometimes difficult to engage them in this process, staff are working on a new, child-friendly version of the care plan. The intention of this is to make it more relevant and understandable and encourage young people to be more involved in planning their care.

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*.