

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	15/12/2011
Inspector	Bill Drumm
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	13/06/2011
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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 (March 2011)*.

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.

Service information

Brief description of the service

The children's home is run by a private company which provides residential care and education for young people. It is registered to care for up to four young people aged between eight- and 17-years-old and whose main need for being looked after is because of emotional and behavioural difficulties.

Progress

Since their previous inspection the service is judged to be making **good** progress.

At the last inspection in June 2011, the overall effectiveness rating for the home was judged to be good.

The home has made good progress since the last inspection. Developments and improvements made ensure that young people are well cared for and safe.

Three recommendations were made at the last inspection and all these matters have been fully addressed.

The recommendations made at the last inspection were that, refresher training for staff had to be brought up to date, and to review the home's Statement of Purpose. In addition, the manager had to ensure that young people were able to understand the contents of their placement plans.

The home's manager has made significant progress in relation to this. A staff training plan is in place and all staff members have received further training. This helps to ensure that staff retain the competencies and skills necessary to look after young people. The home's Statement of Purpose has been reviewed. The experience staff have gained in looking after young people outside the home is fully described. The areas of interest staff have and their hobbies are fully recorded. These details are, therefore, available to be utilised to help young people achieve higher goals.

In addition, each young person's placement plan has been reviewed. The language used within the placement plans, and their content, has been simplified and made clearer. This means young people are able to understand what the home is trying to do to help them and how their needs will be met.

The organisation that operates the home has also reviewed the duty officer system. The number of duty officers will be increased, to provide greater support for staff members and increase flexibility of staffing within the organisation.

The home's manager has, in partnership with the young people, reviewed the

behaviour management system used within the home. Young people can now earn extra rewards for displaying maturity, not answering back and by being helpful. This helps young people to appreciate the needs of others and to develop more appropriate behaviours.

A programme of refurbishment is also underway within the home. Young people's furniture, carpets and fixtures and fittings are being replaced and updated. This helps to ensure young people continue to live in a well-cared for, comfortable environment.