

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	17/02/2012
Inspector	Monica Farrimond
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	21/12/2011
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Service information

Brief description of the service

This children's home is owned and operated by a private company. The home is within walking distance of local amenities and reasonably close to shops and leisure facilities. Local towns are accessible by public transport.

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 December 2011, the overall quality rating for the service was judged as good, with one recommendation. The recommendation relates to the recording of all statutory reviews and reviews of placement plans, and ensuring that individuals responsible for pursuing actions at the home arising from the reviews are clearly identified. This recommendation has been met.

Young people receive a good level of care from staff who are well trained, receive good support from their manager, and enjoy working at the home. The home is fully staffed and includes individuals with differing levels of experience and training, with newer staff completing their induction and developing a good awareness of the residential staff role to provide appropriate care to young people. Young people continue to make good progress, physically, mentally, socially and educationally in relation to their starting points. The home takes positive steps to meet the diverse and complex needs of the young people placed. Staff ensure that young people receive an individual service designed to meet their personal needs. Staff have very good knowledge of the young people they are working with, ensuring their needs are consistently met. The home values the rights of individuals to respect and dignity.

Young people are able to make their views known and have a say in what happens in the home. They are involved in decisions about what food they eat, what they do in their spare time, how the house is decorated and the plans for their future. Professional and personal boundaries with young people are clear and are consistent with good childcare.

Challenging behaviour is well managed. Staff endeavour to promote positive behaviour by promoting good relationships and rewarding good behaviour. Staff and young people look at positive ways of managing young people's challenging behaviours as part of the admission process. Individual behaviour management plans confirm young people's preferred response to times of challenging behaviour. These responses allow young people to take control of their behaviours and avoid the escalation of incidents. There has been a positive reduction in the number of times that young people go missing from the home and this reduces the risk of young people coming to harm.

Young people are fully involved in their care and the running of the home through regular individual sessions. These are well recorded and show that requests made by young people are responded to. Contact arrangements are fully supported by the staff team and this is appreciated by the young people and their families. Behaviour management systems are in place and sanctions are fully recorded by staff to ensure consistency. These are frequently monitored by the quality assurance manager.

The home's aims and objectives are being fulfilled. There are good quality assurance systems being used to monitor the operation, the management, the young people's welfare and the home's records. Realistic and challenging targets are outlined within the home's development plan. Good monitoring systems are used that comply with the requirements of Regulation 33 and 34. Planning for the future is founded on robust evidence which identifies areas of weakness and builds on the areas of strength that this service demonstrates.

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)*.