

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	01/03/2012
Inspector	Debbie Foster
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	29/09/2011
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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

This privately run home provides long-term care and accommodation for up to four young people aged from 11 to 17 years with emotional or behavioural difficulties. Admissions to the home are on a planned or emergency basis.

Progress

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

At the last full inspection in September 2011, the overall judgement for the effectiveness of the home was good. Young people are continuing to make good progress in improving their behaviour, keeping safe, personal care and independence skills. A young person said, 'I get on with some of the staff and I'm doing OK at school.'

The one requirement and three of the recommendations made at the last inspection have been met. Significant events have been reported to Ofsted in line with the regulations to show that appropriate action has been taken by the home to keep young people safe. Each young person's placement plan details all the day-to-day care of that young person, including the specifics about how their behaviour is to be managed. This assists the staff to provide a consistent care approach to young people which helps them to make progress in managing their own behaviour positively. Young people's safety is given high priority by the staff. This is maintained and supported by the staff following specific and clear risk assessments for individual young people. The home's development plan identifies areas for improvement within the home planned for the coming year, to impact on and enhance further the quality of care provided to young people.

One recommendation has not been implemented in full and is, therefore, repeated. Although, a number of staff have a qualification at level 3, others have commenced training to achieve the Children and Young People's Workforce Diploma at level 3. Good progress is being made to ensure all staff attain this professional qualification, which supports good care and practices being provided to young people being looked after.

Since the last inspection, a further deficiency has been noted. The sanction records do not record all the information required by the regulations to assist in the monitoring of this area and to show that sanctions have been applied fairly. The pages of these records are not numbered, so that if pages were to go missing these would not be easily traced. In addition, young people are not always commenting and signing the sanctions records to give their views on the consequence given 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
17B (2001)	ensure that the use of discipline in a children's home is recorded and kept in a volume for the purpose of which shall include all the details set out in the regulation. In particular, that this includes the effectiveness and any consequence of the use of the measure. (Regulation 17B (3) (a-i))	28/04/2012

Recommendations

To improve the quality and standards of care further the service should take account of the following recommendation(s):

- ensure all staff attain a Children and Young People's Workforce Diploma qualification at level 3 (NMS 18)
- ensure where any sanction or disciplinary measures are used, children are encouraged to have their views recorded in the records kept by the home. (NMS 3.18)