

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	31/01/2012
Inspector	Michelle Spruce
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	08/07/2011
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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 home is operated by a private organisation. The home is registered to provide care for two young people of either sex between the ages of eight and 17 years with emotional or behavioural difficulties. However, the home only provides care for one young person at any one time, unless the two children are siblings and it is considered appropriate for them to share a bedroom.

Progress

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

At the last inspection in July 2011, the overall quality rating for the service was judged as good, with one requirement and one recommendation made.

The requirement made was in relation to record keeping. Young people's placement plans are clear and detailed. As a result, young people receive individualised care. Staff update information in a timely manner and address shortfalls. However, some records relating to financial sanctions are not clear. There are discrepancies between the recording and actual agreement of how much money is to be paid back. This means young people's records do not reflect a true factual account, which may have an affect financially.

Improvement was required to provide a written development plan for the future of the home. Since the last inspection, the manager has developed a plan that outlines the strengths and weaknesses. Although this is an ongoing, slight improvements have been made. For example, questionnaires received provide the manager with feedback to evaluate how to improve the quality of care. This means outcomes for young people are continually monitored and improved.

Young people have made successful transition to other placements since the previous inspection. Staff continue to provide support to these young people through verbal contact. As a result, young people are encouraged, valued and safe.

The home is managed effectively and there are positive relationships between the manager and staff. Young people feel well supported as a result. Staff are well supported, trusted and valued because the manager is sensitive and fair in her approach. Staff confirm that although the current manager will be resigning there has been significant work done with introducing and working alongside the new manager. This means the home continues to maintain positive outcomes for young people with minimal disruption.

Areas for improvement

Recommendations

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

- ensure information about the child is recorded clearly and in a way which will be helpful to the child when they access their files. This is in relation to agreed financial sanctions. (NMS 22.5)