

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	10/01/2012
Inspector	Maria McGranaghan
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	11/05/2011
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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 home provides care and accommodation for up to four young people with emotional and behavioural difficulties, including attachment disorder. It is operated by a private organisation.

Progress

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

The judgement at the last full inspection in June 2011 was that this is an outstanding service. The children's home has demonstrated continued improvement in the quality of care and outcomes for children and young people. The young people benefit from consistent practice that allows all aspects of their lives to improve.

Young people work closely with staff and hard work has created a vibrant home where young people like to be. Consultation with young people is viewed with high regard. Young people's comments and views inspire the decisions made in the home and assist in the continued development of individual care packages. Similarly, feedback from external agencies is consistently sought and demonstrates the home's approach to offering transparent care. The promotion of equality and diversity is clearly reflected within the home. Young people take part in a range of both individual and group activities addressing difference and this is supported by the excellent relationships formed with staff. Young people thrive in their home.

Young people benefit from being looked after by a strong, committed and qualified staff team. Excellent training, supervision and support enable the staff to maintain high standards of care in a consistent and planned way. As a result, young people are achieving good outcomes.

Placements are stable with young people learning how to take responsibility for their behaviour. Staff are both committed and consistent in managing difficult and challenging behaviours. Consequently, physical intervention and young people missing from home has significantly reduced. The promotion of young people's education, health and well-being is excellent. Educational attendance and attainment is exceptional. All young people actively engage with their education programmes and are making sustained progress. Regular keyworker sessions enable young people to review their targets and reflect on their personal progress. Young people's achievements improve self-confidence and esteem and this inspires them to want to achieve more.

The home used a range of approaches to support learning including play, holidays, activities and outings. Young people are integrated well into the community and this assists them in making and sustaining external relationships.

The Statement of Purpose clearly reflects the aims and objectives of the home. Good monitoring systems are in place and assist to scrutinize the operation and management of the home. Realistic and challenging targets are outlined within the home's development plan.

Planning for the future is founded on robust evidence which identifies areas of weakness and builds on the many areas of strength that the service consistently demonstrates.