

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	13/01/2012
Inspector	Liz Driver
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	03/08/2011
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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 can accommodate up to seven young people aged from six to 17 years. The service aims to accommodate children and young people who have emotional and behavioural difficulties and provides a therapeutic care approach towards meeting their needs. The home is part of an organisation which has three residential homes and a school.

Progress

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

At the last inspection carried out in August 2011 the overall judgement for the setting was outstanding.

The one recommendation made at the last inspection has been fully addressed.

The recommendation made has resulted in all medicines administered being clearly recorded with stock control systems that are applied consistently. Medication administration and especially stock control checks are carried out at the end of each shift by the shift leader resulting in enhanced safeguards.

This children's home is maintaining and improving good standards of care. The organisation has a clear focus on improving and continuing to meet the changing needs of children and young people coming into care. Children and young people, on the whole, continue to benefit from engagement in education, appropriate to their educational needs, with some very good attendance levels seen as a result. Staff work closely with placing social workers and education establishments. Despite some difficulties ensuring consistency of education children and young people are happy at their education establishment. During difficult times staff are fully supportive of the children and young people and work hard to get them back on track. High levels of supervision and staff support in schools are put in place if required.

Monthly development meetings highlight the areas for development in the setting and across the organisation as a whole. Areas identified include; developing a readable version of children and young people's care plans called 'all about me' which leads to 'looking after me' and the redecoration of the building, which is planned for the near future.

Since the last inspection, the number of physical interventions has decreased as has the number of violent incidents. Children and young people feel safe in voicing their views and wishes and in talking about their previous experiences. The daily group meetings that children and young people participate in enable them to discuss any issues on a daily basis and to understand the difficulties other children and young

people are experiencing. This enables better group living.

The younger children continue to function well in a house that has a wide age range of children and young people. Staff manage this age range very well with all children and young people receiving high levels of individual support in this very therapeutic setting. The staff team, many new in 2011, provide sensitive care and are consistent in applying this. Their practice is fully supported by a very effective manager and her deputy.

All children and young people have made, and continue to make, good progress in many aspects of their lives. Staff fully support children and young people in areas of difficulties.