

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	17/01/2012
Inspector	Helen Walker
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	12/08/2011
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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

This service is a privately run children's home. The home provides care and accommodation for one young person.

The provider has an education unit which is registered as a school with the Department for Education. This provision is available to young people placed in the home.

Progress

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

The overall judgement at the home's last inspection was good. The children's home has demonstrated a continued improvement in quality of care and outcomes for young people. The home has addressed the requirement and two recommendations made at the previous inspection. These relate to the update of the home's Statement of Purpose, the young people's placement plans and the replacement of bedroom furniture.

The home's Statement of Purpose now meets regulations and is available to placing authorities for their information. Young people's placement plans detail the agreed care strategies to promote their positive behaviour. Young people's bedroom furniture has been improved.

Young people say they feel safe in the home and get on well with the staff team. They say staff are fair, helpful and very approachable. Additionally, young people say they regard staff as friendly and as people who listen to them. Young people say they are very happy living in this home and consider their views are taken into account, for example in menu planning and choice of activities. Young people say they have not had reason to make a complaint about their care but are aware of the process. Young people live in a home that is well maintained with good health and safety measures in place to promote their welfare.

Staff significantly encourage young people to have a daily routine in the home. This enables young people to have an active involvement in education, training or work placement schemes. Young people enjoy regular attendance at a voluntary work scheme with a view to obtaining permanent employment. A social worker says staff show a strong commitment to ensure young people maintain their work placement through the provision of transport.

Staff readily support young people to participate in a wide range of positive activities. Young people have access to leisure activities in the wider community which helps to keep them fit and healthy. Staff work hard to support young people's contact with

family and friends so that they maintain links to those that are significant to them. Written compliments from parents show staff are caring and understand the importance of maintaining and promoting contact with parents.

Young people have access to a range of health professionals which supports their ongoing health needs and well being. Staff facilitate young people's contact with health professionals so that their routine and specific health needs are met.

Young people's positive behaviour is promoted. Staff and young people are clear about the disciplinary measures used in the home. Young people say bullying is not an issue in this home. Staff emphasise rewards for young people's appropriate behaviours. Young people's achievements and their success while working towards independence are celebrated. Staff recognise the lifelong benefits for young people to learn independence skills for their future. Young people comment on the support they receive to promote their independent travel and to develop their household skills, for example, in using public transport and cooking meals.

Since the last inspection the staff team have remained the same which means young people have continuity of care from people they know. Staff confirm they have good support and supervision from the management team. This assists staff in their professional development and in improving their working practice.

Young people confirm they are involved in their care plan and plans for their future. This enables young people to have a say about how they are cared for in the home. A social worker comments that young people are looked after in a very homely and comfortable environment. Additionally, they say staff have a good understanding of young people's needs and always keep them informed about young people's progress.

Overall the home is making good progress for the benefit of the young people. All the staff team now have a suitable child care qualification which helps to support them in their work with young people. Improvements to the young people's written guide to the home have also been made. This means young people have information about the home in a format that is easier to read and understand. No requirements or recommendations have been made from this inspection.