

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC020594
Inspection date	10/09/2012
Inspector	Dawn Bennett
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	04/05/2012
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Service information

Brief description of the service

The home provides accommodation for up to 10 young people aged from 11 to 17 years, most of who are placed on an emergency basis following a recent history of placement breakdown and difficult or high-risk behaviour. The home undertakes assessments, for up to three months, of young people in crisis.

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.

Progress

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

The home was judged as good at the last full inspection which took place May 2012. It is judged to be making satisfactory progress following this interim inspection. There were three recommendations made as a result of the last inspection. Although progress has been made to achieve all three, they have not been fully met. The Registered Manager and deputy manager are working to achieve them in a timely way so that the outcomes achieved are of a good quality.

The home's deputy manager has developed a placement plan specific to Crisis Care. This is currently awaiting ratification by the organisation's quality assurance officer.

A programme of additional training has been developed and incorporates specialist courses that reflect the Statement of Purpose of the home. This is going to run over four months and is due to start in October. This training will include specialist training for seniors. It will also include training on completing informative risk assessments and the newly developed placement plan.

The managers and staff team continue to be clear of the aims and objectives of this service. The home's key strength is stabilising young people in crisis by using outward-bound activities. The professional staff team help young people effectively to address their short-term needs.

From the point of placement, young people make good progress in developing a positive self-view. They participate in a range of activities that are new to them, such as camping, caving, mountain biking, walking, rock climbing and kayaking. Each activity results in them achieving an educational qualification equivalent to GCSE entry level. Successfully completing the activities, as well as achieving good educational outcomes, develops young people's confidence, focuses them on age-appropriate, healthy activities and results in them learning new skills.

One of the primary aims of this service is to break cycles of high risk behaviour. The service is successful at achieving this and there are significant reductions in young people's previous patterns of behaviours, such as going missing from care, sexual exploitation, criminal activity and violence towards others. There is good liaison with police and local authorities when incidents arise.

The accommodation continues to be in the process of undergoing major redecoration and refurbishment. The timescales for completion of this work are clearly set out in a development plan, which is being adhered to. Work has been completed to a good standard but unfortunately has subsequently been damaged and is waiting repair.

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)*.