

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	13/03/2012
Inspector	Dawn Bennett
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	26/10/2011
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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 centre is located in an isolated and rural location. Set in a former agricultural property, the centre functions as a base from which young people in crisis aged from 11 to 17 years are supported to undertake a wide range of adventurous outdoor activities in which the staff are trained and licensed to provide leadership and guidance. The centre offers placements which are short term for up to 10 young people, most of whom are placed on an emergency basis following a recent history of placement breakdown and difficult or risky behaviour. The placements are aimed primarily at helping young people to gain some stability and control in their lives.

Progress

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

The home was judged as good at the last full inspection which took place October 2011. It is judged to be making good progress following this interim inspection. No requirements or recommendations were made as a result of this inspection.

There were two requirements and five recommendations made as a result of the last inspection. Both requirements have been met.

Of the five recommendations made, two have been met and three are on-going. Work has started to ensure the home provides a comfortable and homely environment that is well maintained and decorated. This is a large home spread across two buildings. One maintenance man has been assigned time to decorate and undertake repairs. Some progress has been made but is often interrupted to repair damage to the property caused by young people currently placed. The Registered Manager has employed a company to undertake a deep clean once a month. Staff supervisions have been reviewed and systems for group supervision introduced. The Registered Manager and Regulation 33 visitor are monitoring outcomes and although there has been some improvement they are still not taking place on a regular basis. The Registered Manager is currently exploring strategies to address this. The company are in the process of restructuring. They have agreed to increase staffing at this home and some experienced staff will be transferring within the company. They have also advertised posts and the Registered Manager is in the process of interviewing and appointing staff. The aim is to ensure there is a permanent staff team who will deliver consistent good quality care.

There is a development plan and training programme for the service that is reviewed periodically by the Registered Manager. This demonstrates the strong commitment to ensuring the quality of care offered to young people and clearly states how the service intends to continue to improve quality of care and outcomes for young people. For example, the manager has identified the need for training in autism so

that staff can help young people with this specific diagnosis. The manager has also identified training in supporting young people who self harm, so staff can develop additional skills to ensure the safety and well-being of these young people.

Young people continue to receive a service that is matched to their needs and circumstances. The Registered Manager provides clear leadership and direction to the staff team who in turn deliver good standards of care and support. Young people continue to make good progress in many aspects of their lives. For example, there is good or increasing school attendance that results in improving educational outcomes. Young people develop tools to self moderate their behaviours resulting in a reduction in high risk behaviours equipping them for progression from the home.

Young people in this home have positive relationships with an enthusiastic staff that are committed to providing individualised care. Staff listen to young people and encourage them to express their wishes and feelings. They act on this information by advocating and promoting arrangements that best suit each young person. The Registered Manager has designed a consultation document for young people to use to ensure that the young people participate fully in their own care and the development of the service. The form is completed during each staff shift. It has been adapted to cover a range of topics to best highlight the needs of the young people. For example, young people can comment on meals, activities and relationships with staff. This approach ensures young people's rights, entitlements are promoted and discrimination is challenged.