

Inspection report for children's home

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

Date of last inspection	21/12/2011
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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 home is part of a range of children's services within a private care organisation. The home is registered to offer care and accommodation to four young people with emotional and behavioural difficulties; three are accommodated in the main house, one in a satellite unit some distance away.

Progress

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

The judgement at the last full inspection was good. Since then the standard of care has been maintained. Satisfactory progress has been made to address the two recommendations that were made at the last inspection. The physical environment is now presented to a high standard in all areas with appropriate decoration and new carpeting. The practices that protect young people when they are missing from home are now compatible with local authority guidelines. Such guidelines are reflected in young people's risk assessments, which help to ensure they are individually protected as effectively as possible in the event of them going missing.

Young people's views are sought well both formally and informally, which serves to encourage their integration into the home and self-confidence. For example, young people's meetings occur regularly every week so that they can contribute to planning and air any grievances. The manager too has meetings with young people to ensure they have no additional concerns. Young people are also routinely involved in discussions about incidents and they are involved with what is written about them. This shows a good level of involvement and consultation. However, the views of young people and other people who are significant to them are not taken into account in developing the home. This contributes to insufficiently effective development planning.

A written development plan is in place and satisfactory progress has been made in several areas. For example, gaps in staff training have been addressed so that their competency levels are maintained. Also, appropriate development work is underway to ensure that the promotion of social diversity is intrinsic in the home. Extremely detailed reports are also regularly compiled by the manager that aims to improve the service. However, these mainly serve to sustain the quality of the service to individual children and young people rather than improve it overall.

Young people receive good quality care. In particular, there is excellent work being undertaken in leisure activities, such as involving young people in writing and recording their own lyrics and music. Appropriate work is also underway to ensure that the cultural needs of young people are addressed and that this occurs as

promptly as possible. Methods of managing each young person's behaviour are kept under review and are effective in encouraging positive behaviour. This benefits young people's self-esteem substantially by reducing the numbers of physical interventions. Senior staff have a substantial understanding of safeguarding procedures for children and young people, which is another contribution to their safety and wellbeing.

Overall, the quality of care is being maintained at a good level and there is a satisfactory level of progress.

Areas for improvement

Statutory Requirements

This section sets out the actions which must be taken so that the registered person/s meets the Care Standards Act 2000, Children's Homes Regulations 2001 and the National Minimum Standards. The registered person(s) must comply with the given timescales.

Reg.	Requirement	Due date
34 (2001)	ensure there is a system for improving the quality of care provided in the children's home and that it is effective. (Regulation 34(1)(b))	04/06/2012

Recommendations

To improve the quality and standards of care further the service should take account of the following recommendation(s):

- ensure the wishes, feelings and views of children and those significant to them are taken into account in developing the home. (NMS 1.7)