

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	23/02/2012
Inspector	Caroline Wilson
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	15/11/2011
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Service information

Brief description of the service

The home is a privately owned home. It is registered to provide care and accommodation for up to three young people aged from 11 to 17 years with emotional and behavioural difficulties.

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 **good** progress.

Staff show a strong commitment to running the home to effectively promote and safeguard the welfare of young people. Regulation 33 monitoring of the home is regularly undertaken by an independent person. This is highly effective and ensures that the home continually provides a good service. The monitoring is transparent and highlights areas which the home does well as well as identifying any weaknesses. The Registered Manager responds well to any recommendations made. The most recent monitoring identified that some improvement was needed to the physical environment. This was acted upon within a month.

Young people's opinions are actively sought and their views and wishes are taken into account in relation to decisions about the daily life of the home. They get the opportunity to express their views about what they want as a group, during resident's meetings. Matters such as room inspections and leisure activities were recently discussed. Young people are provided with information to make informed choices about issues that affect their daily lives and individual plans for their care during key work sessions. Young people know what behaviour is expected of them. The children's guide clearly sets out the house rules and the conduct matters. These

are re-enforced during regular key work sessions and house meetings. Young people are supported in behaviour management by staff and where relevant, external agencies. The home has good relationships with the community support police. They visit regularly on an informal basis with the aim of building good relationships between themselves and young people.

Young people are provided with the necessary skills which effectively prepare them for independent living. Some young people have recently met the objectives as set out in their care plan for transition planning and have successfully moved on to live independently. Young people learn the importance of learning to cook, clean and do well in other aspects of everyday living. This includes being aware of the importance of being involved in some form of day time activity, such as education or employment. This develops young people's sense of self worth and gives them a positive focus of what they can achieve in life. Young people who are younger than the formal age of pathway planning are encouraged to take risks proportional to their age, such as going to the shops and travelling on the bus. Their involvement in these activities are subject to staff making informed, professional judgements. Young people's care plans informs their decision and robust risk assessments are put in place so that young people can safely explore the world that they live in.

The frequency of supervision is set out in timeframes in accordance with the National Minimum Standards (NMS). Staff find supervision beneficial in enabling them to promote the welfare of young people as well as their own personal development needs.

Young people are safe within the home. No safeguarding incidences or complaints have been made by or on behalf of young people since the last inspection. Staff spoken to have a good understanding of all aspects of safeguarding practice and the appropriate response to take in relation to matters, including child protection, responding to young people who are absent without permission and bullying. Staff know the importance of building positive relationships with young people to facilitate a culture of openness and trust so that they are alert to any signs that might indicate that a young person is at risk of harm. Staff are pro-active in building good relationships with their neighbour. This enables both parties to have a greater understanding of each other's viewpoints. Positive relationships between the home and the local community are established and any complaints that neighbours may have are easily resolved.

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)*.