

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	22/01/2013
Inspector	Stella Lovie
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	25/07/2012
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Service information

Brief description of the service

The children's home is owned and operated by a private organisation. It is registered to provide care and accommodation for two young people with behavioural and emotional 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**.

The home was last inspected in July 2012. It received an overall effectiveness judgement of good. There was one requirement made and this has been met. There were two recommendations made and both of these have been met.

Children and young people continue to be cared for in a warm and nurturing environment. The home itself is decorated and maintained to a high standard. This helps children and young people to feel valued. They have excellent relationships with staff based on warmth and mutual respect. These enable them to develop practical, social and emotional skills which promote their confidence and well-being. One young person said, 'I really like this home. It's a good place. It's so relaxed and the staff are all really nice. They treat me as if I'm special and take good care of me.'

Staff provide high quality guidance and support to the children and young people. They use tailored positive behaviour strategies that are responsive to individual need, and are guided by expert advice. Consequently, children and young people become successful in managing conflict constructively, and learn to regulate their behaviour. This means that there is minimal use of restraint and sanctions, and children and

young people are helped to move forward positively with their lives. For example, since the last inspection some children and young people have been able to leave the home in a planned and appropriate manner. This has given them the best possible start in their new placements.

The home has a new manager who has applied to become the Registered Manager. She brings a wealth of experience and is suitably qualified. She is supported in the management role by two very able senior members of staff. Together they make a strong and effective leadership team. As a result, the staff team is stable and highly motivated. All the staff, including the manager, receive regular supervision. This helps them to reflect on their practice and deliver an exceptional quality of care. Staff receive specialist training to meet children and young people's specific needs. This ensures that children and young people's welfare is constantly promoted. Quality assurance arrangements are strengthened by the evident commitment to obtain and act upon feedback from relatives and external professionals.

The manager has made a number of improvements to the administration of the home. For example, the staff office has been completely refurbished. This helps staff to provide a very professional service. They are also in process of changing to electronic records. This encourages enhanced consistency and clarity in children and young people's records.

In conclusion, the home has addressed all the areas for improvement identified in the previous inspection. It demonstrates continued improvement in quality of care and outcomes for children and young people. It is therefore making good progress. There are no weaknesses identified in this inspection.

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*.