

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	29/02/2012
Inspector	Jacqueline Malcolm
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	02/12/2011
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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

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.

Progress

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

At the inspection in December 2011, the homes overall effectiveness was judged to be good. Young people benefit from continued improvement in the quality of care and their outcomes.

The home has addressed the requirements and recommendations previously raised. The quality of service provided for children is more robustly monitored internally by the manager. This means that young people continue to receive a high standard of care. Regulation 33 visits undertaken monthly give a more evaluative view on the quality of service. However, recommendations are not always clearly summarised for the manager's attention. In this instance, the manager has identified and addressed the shortfall identified in a recent report. Young people's risk assessments are implemented and ensure that their safety and welfare is enhanced.

Since the last inspection, the home is now operating to full capacity. Good care has been taken to ensure that young people live a compatible and happy home life. Young people are well cared for by staff that can meet their individual needs and provide them with a safe and secure home. Young people say that they like the staff, feel safe and are listened to. Positive relationships between staff and young people continue to develop and grow, promoting an environment of openness and trust. Young people are learning to take control of their behaviour and incidents have significantly reduced over time. There has been one physical intervention in recent months and no young people have been missing from home. Management monitoring of trends and patterns in this area provide a good measure of young people's progress. Young people preparing for independence are well supported. Young people who refuse to participate in work related projects are encouraged to engage in alternative schemes. Staff are proactive and respond so not to allow young people to drift. Young people who are of school age are very good attendees. Young people enjoy sound contact arrangements with family and friends in the community. This helps to promote their identity and social integration.

Staff are well motivated and morale is good. Staff members have a positive view of the team and work together in the best interests of young people. Staff continue to review their practice through refresher training and development. For example, first aid training, food safety, movement, safeguarding and medication competence

training. Staff are well managed and supported, delivering a child focused service that promotes young people's potential and life chances.