

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	23/03/2012
Inspector	Caroline Wilson
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	30/11/2011
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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 is a privately-run home which provides care and accommodation for up to four young people aged 13 to 17 years old. This home caters for young people who have emotional and behavioural difficulties (EBD).

Progress

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

Young people make good progress in respect of their educational attainment. Young people are supported in overcoming educational barriers to ensure that they meet educational targets in order to reach their full potential. Young people are self-motivated in obtaining gainful employment or work experience. They receive additional financial bonuses in instances where they are employed on a voluntary basis. This helps them to obtain valuable work experience that is necessary for them to obtain paid employment. Young people feel a sense of achievement and they are enabled to fill their time constructively. Young people cook, clean and do well in other aspects of everyday living to support their transition to living independently. This develops their sense of self-worth and gives them a positive focus of what they can achieve in life.

Young people accommodated at the home are appropriately placed. Good background checks are undertaken in order to assess whether young people meet the criteria for admission as set out in the home's Statement of Purpose. Young people's potential relationships with other young people are also considered to maintain the stability of existing placements. Their care corresponds with the home's ethos so that they can achieve the objectives that are set out in their care plan.

Young people enjoy lifestyles that promote their good health. They participate in leisure activities that enable them to keep good mental and physical health. Healthy lifestyles are incorporated within their daily living. Young people make use of local leisure facilities and enjoy a diet consisting of homely, freshly prepared meals. This facilitates young people's inclusion into the local community as well as helping them to meet specific targets in respect of their individual health needs.

Young people sustain and develop links with their birth family and wider support networks in a positive and meaningful way. Young people maintain respectful and constructive relationships with important people in their lives. Contact arrangements are in line with the young person's care and placement plans.

Young people are safe within the home. Safeguarding concerns are responded to in accordance with London Safeguarding Children's Board procedures. This ensures that staff do not interfere with police investigations into concerns raised. There is a

culture of openness and trust between young people and staff so that any indicators of abuse can easily be identified. Staff spoken to have a good understanding of all aspects of safeguarding practice and the appropriate response to take in accordance. This includes the management of young people's behaviour so that they are aware of how to keep themselves safe within the community. Young people are supported by staff to manage conflict and to develop positive behaviour. Young people have frequent discussions with staff, in addition to their key-work sessions, to help them understand how they can develop into well-rounded and confident adults.

Staff show a strong commitment to running the home to effectively promote and safeguard the welfare of young people. Supervision and training take place regularly. This enables staff to further develop their skills and competences to respond to young people's behaviour. The home continues to offer good physical safety and security. Young people, staff and visitors are protected from the risk of fire and other hazards. Safety inspections include periodic risk assessments and the statutory health and safety checks.

The premises continue to be maintained to a good standard so as to provide young people with a suitable environment. Each of the young people's bedrooms is appropriately furnished. The home's design and size are consistent with its purpose and function.