

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC034211
Inspection date	05/03/2012
Inspector	Michael Williams
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	06/12/2011
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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 one of a number of children's homes operated by a city council. It provides care and accommodation for up to five young people who have emotional and/or behaviour difficulties. The home is an admissions unit where the intention is to move young people on to more suitable care and accommodation, such as a return to their parental home, identified foster placement, preparation for independent living, or a long-term children's home.

Progress

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

The service has maintained the quality of care and outcomes for young people that were respectively judged to be outstanding and good at the previous full inspection in December 2011. The service has also started to effectively address the three recommendations that were raised at the previous inspection.

To improve the quality and standards of care further, the previous inspection made three recommendations. One, for all staff to have the opportunity to attend all staff meetings, to improve the support they are given to provide a high quality service to young people. Two, for the Registered Manager's review of the quality of care provided to be sufficiently detailed to monitor the patterns and trends within the home. Three, for young people's personal care plans to sufficiently reflect their individual care plans, so they are cared for in line with both.

Three months on since the full inspection, the home has continued to hold fortnightly staff team meetings and is working towards as many of the staff team as possible participating in these meetings from April 2012. The staff roster is due to be amended to facilitate the attendance of part-time staff at these meetings. The Registered Manager has continued to carry out daily, weekly and monthly checks on the operation of the home. As the system for visits to the home by the registered provider is due to change soon, the Registered Manager is planning to change their internal monitoring at the same time. Together these changes are intended to ensure that both the Registered Manager and the provider will then be better able to identify any trends and issues of concern in the home and to continually improve the quality of care they are providing. Based on their placing authority care plan, staff prepare an individual care plan for each young person, and, with assistance from staff, young people then compile their personal care plan. The home has introduced a new version of the young people's personal care plan, which includes more sections of information and better reflects their care plans. Staff are continuing to encourage young people to put more details into their personal care plans, so they better reflect

all aspects of their individual identity and staff are then able to provide them with more personalised care.