

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC034797
Inspection date	01/10/2012
Inspector	Dorrit Andrews
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	24/05/2012
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Service information

Brief description of the service

This home provides long-term residential care for up to six young people who have emotional and behavioural difficulties. The home is owned and operated by the local Children's Services Department.

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**.

At the full inspection in May 2012, the overall quality rating for the home was judged as good with one requirement and one recommendation set within the inspection report.

The home demonstrates continued improvement in its leadership and management and the quality of care provided. The requirement and recommendation raised at the previous inspection have each been suitably addressed. A copy of an awaited updated care plan has been received and placed on file and a new recording format has been compiled for recording community complaints.

Since the last inspection a number of developments have taken place including a recent change of registered manager. The staff team is at full complement and working together very well following a number of long-term absences. Emphasis has been placed on maximising members of the management team to full effect to support individual development and the consistent day-to-day running of the home. Staff have responded well and they report there is greater clarity of roles and responsibilities as a result. The frequency of team meetings has been increased to

ensure clarity of communication. The meetings have also been a forum for visiting professionals and also senior management members which has been welcomed by staff. The monitoring of individual placements by senior management has also increased recently to facilitate a weekly overview of care planning. This is helping to support individual placements to best effect. The home's Statement of Purpose has recently been updated to reflect changes and will be submitted to Ofsted shortly. A range of training continues to be offered. Staff report that certain aspects have become increasingly accessible through the organisation's on-line 'learning hub'. Training is also being provided in relation to the county's electronic recording system which will provide improved and more immediate communication between the home and social work teams.

Young people confirm they are able to talk to staff and that they get along with other young people living in the home. They feel safe, the food is 'good' and their views are sought and listened to. House meetings take place and they regularly contribute ideas, particularly in relation to trips and activities. They can keep their belongings safe and have their own rooms which they view as being comfortable and 'okay'.

At times there have been some very difficult and challenging behaviours within the group. However, staff report that things have settled considerably over the past two months. There has been a lessening of risk taking behaviour and no incidents of missing from care for several weeks. The focus on restorative approaches remains strong within the home and it is clear from records that young people are involved in discussions about their behaviour and the impact on themselves and others. Staff are supporting young people in an increasing number of activities and after school clubs. This is helping to promote young people's overall well-being and contributes to the strengthening of friendships in the community and the maintenance of positive relationships within the home. All young people are currently attending education regularly. For some individuals this has involved a great deal of effort on their behalf and support from staff, particularly in relation to securing and maintaining attendance at further education colleges. One member of staff has recently received an award for the best residential practitioner of the year having been nominated by a young person.

Accommodation continues to be well maintained. Work has continued on the outside games room to create a more welcoming multi-purpose area for young people. The next stage involves young people and a graffiti artist in decorating areas of the room and the provision of new floor covering.

The home continues to demonstrate a highly active commitment to the development of a high quality service to promote and achieve positive outcomes for young people. No requirements or recommendations have been raised as a result of 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 (March 2011)*.