

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC035339
Inspection date	02/03/2012
Inspector	Monica Farrimond
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	05/10/2011
--------------------------------	------------

© Crown copyright 2012

Website: www.ofsted.gov.uk

This document may be reproduced in whole or in part for non-commercial educational purposes, provided that the information quoted is reproduced without adaptation and the source and date of publication are stated.

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 children's home is owned and managed by a metropolitan borough council. The home can accommodate six young people and has been set up specifically to provide care to young people with emotional or behavioural difficulties. It is anticipated that young people will live at the home on a medium- to long-term basis.

Progress

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

The children's home has demonstrated continued improvement in the quality of care and outcomes for children and young people. The young people benefit from sound consistent practice, underpinned by thorough comprehensive placement plans, and risk assessments. The views of the young people are consistently sought and this information is used to influence the operation of the home. Thus young people feel their views are taken seriously. This helps to promote self-esteem and confidence. Relationships between staff and young people are excellent with individual differences accepted and celebrated.

Good outcomes are being achieved and the young people continue to receive a high standard of care from an experienced, competent and qualified staff team. Young people's positive behaviour is promoted. From the beginning of the admission, staff and young people look at positive ways of managing young people's challenging behaviours. Staff work well with other professionals to bring about the best possible outcomes for young people in their care. Individual behaviour management plans confirm young people's preferred response to times of challenging behaviour. These responses allow young people to take control of their behaviours and avoid the escalation of incidents. Placements are stable and young people take responsibility for their behaviour. Behaviour management, and safeguarding concerns are addressed and well documented, with appropriate protocols followed.

Communication between staff is good and this promotes consistent practice. The promotion of young people's education, health and well-being are excellent. Young people's achievements are celebrated, shared, and supported by staff, improving self-confidence and future prospects for the young people.

Staff are encouraged to attend appropriate training to assist them to promote the welfare of young people accommodated at the home. The senior management and staff are knowledgeable of their responsibilities within equality and diversity legislation and of good practice. The comprehensive placement plans and outcome of review meetings identify individual needs as well as monitoring young people's progress. Staff demonstrate a commitment to supporting young people and effectively promote their welfare. Young people thrive in a nurturing, supportive environment, with clear structures and boundaries in place. The staff are fair but

firm. Young people are fully aware of staff's expectations of them and they benefit from an experienced, cohesive, staff team who see the importance of celebrating diversity and encouraging young people to feel special. The home's aims and objectives are being fulfilled. There are good quality assurance systems being used to monitor the operation, management, young people's welfare and the home's records. Realistic and challenging targets are outlined within the home's development plan. Good monitoring systems are used that comply with the requirements of Regulations 33 and 34.

This interim inspection focused on the progress made by the home since their last full inspection, in which they were judged to be good. There was one requirement and two recommendations made following the last inspection. The two recommendations relating to consultation with young people and the gender of staff working at the home are fully addressed. The requirement relating to the measures of control and discipline has been partly addressed but is re-iterated in this report in order that the requirement is met in full.

Areas for improvement

Statutory Requirements

This section sets out the actions which must be taken so that the registered person/s meets the Care Standards Act 2000, Children's Homes Regulations 2001 and the National Minimum Standards. The registered person(s) must comply with the given timescales.

Reg.	Requirement	Due date
17 (2001)	ensure no measure of control or discipline which is excessive or unreasonable shall be used at any time on children accommodated in the children's home. (Regulation 17.1)	14/03/2012

Recommendations

To improve the quality and standards of care further the service should take account of the following recommendation(s):