

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC035439
Inspection date	25/01/2012
Inspector	Stephen Trainor
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	29/09/2011
--------------------------------	------------

© 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

A local authority operates this children's home. This service is registered for up to six young people of either gender, aged between 11 and 17 years of age. The home cares for young people with emotional and behavioural difficulties.

Progress

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

At the last full inspection, the home was judged as outstanding. The children's home has demonstrated continued improvement in the quality of care and outcomes for children and young people. All the young people benefit from consistent practice that allows their lives to improve. Placements are stable and young people take responsibility for their behaviour.

There is good use of a range of monitoring activities and evaluation of data continually improves the quality of care. Planning is founded on evidence that tackles key areas of weakness and builds on areas of strength. The home's aims and objectives are being fulfilled. The responsible local authority operating this service is reorganising its range of residential services and this will lead to some closures as well as staff members having to follow redeployment policy and reapply for their positions. The Registered Manager is supporting staff well during this uncertain period; communication is effective to lesson any concerns and anxieties they might have. Staff practice remains consistent and young people continue to receive a high standard of care. The home's development plan will be reviewed by the Registered Manager when the full impact of any change is known.

Records provide a comprehensive overview of the work that is taking place at the home. Programmes run by key workers positively change young people's behaviours. There is a growing body of evidence that shows partners supporting placements are highly satisfied with the home's operation, management, young people's welfare and the response taken to health and safety.

Young people work closely with staff and hard work has created an interesting home where young people like to be. The young people's views are consistently gathered and these influence the home's operation and future direction. There were no changes to the peer group between inspections. There is an excellent ethos at the home that helps young people to achieve and develop. Relationships are excellent with individual differences being accepted and valued by all living and working at the home. Individuals prosper and they confirm that they are happy, safe and relaxed living in their home. Strategies to deal with the many forms of bullying that can occur are effective.

Managers stimulate the enthusiasm of staff and channel their efforts effectively. Young people continue to receive a high standard of care from a highly qualified, experienced and competent staff team. It is a strong, child-focused service that is conducive to young people developing their potential. Good information, including policy and procedural guidance, is available to support staff's practice. Some additional training is needed to ensure staff at all levels fully comprehend the new inspection framework.

The promotion of young people's health and well-being is good. Young people's educational attainments are tremendous. All the young people actively engage with their education programmes and attendance is excellent. There is close liaison with schools and colleges. Young people's achievements improve self-confidence and future prospects. Young people regularly reflect on their progress with staff and this keeps them highly motivated. Pathway planning is in place for older residents and these provide opportunities and experiences that enable young people to gain new skills for the world of work and for the time that they leave the home.

Areas for improvement

Recommendations

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

- ensure staff receive high-quality learning and development training to enhance their individual skills; specifically, staff at all levels have a comprehensive understanding of the new inspection framework, evaluation schedule and grade descriptors, and new national minimum standards to ensure all their work remains fully focused. (NMS 18.1)