

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	20/03/2012
Inspector	Debbie Foster
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	28/12/2011
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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 is a local authority children's home, which provides care and accommodation, on a long-term basis, for up to five young people from eleven to 15-years-old with emotional and behavioural difficulties.

All admissions to the home will be on a planned basis only.

Progress

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

At the last full inspection in December 2011, the overall judgement for the effectiveness of the home was outstanding. The home is judged to be making satisfactory progress at this interim inspection. An experienced staff team continue to support and care for young people in a child focused way. Staff have established strong links with a variety of professionals and this assists young people further where required. However, outcomes for young people vary, with some young people making progress in health, education attendance, developing self-care and independence skills. Other young people are not making progress in behaving consistently in a socially acceptable way, in education, training attainment and attendance.

A young person said 'I'm still enjoying going ice skating, I love it, I'm doing well with my independence and I'm good at budgeting my money,' but 'It's not so good here at the moment, some young people are messing about a lot at night and keeping me awake.'

The home has made progress in ensuring that the two recommendations made at the last inspection have been implemented. The children's guide includes information on how young people can contact their Independent Reviewing Officer, the Children's Rights Director and Ofsted if they wish to raise a concern with inspectors, and how to secure access to an independent advocate. This information has been discussed and explained to all young people to ensure they are clear on how they can find out about their rights and access support when they require it. Staff work with young people who smoke, helping them to understand the health implications and discourage them from smoking. This is promoting good health.

Since the last inspection, a deficiency has been noted. Not all the admissions of young people to the home have been undertaken in a planned way, as set out to be followed in the homes Statement of Purpose. This is impacting negatively on the young people already living at the home and the new young person.

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
4 (2001)	ensure that the children's home is at all times conducted in a manner which is consistent with its Statement of Purpose. (Regulation 4 (6))	28/04/2012

Recommendations

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