

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC037762
Inspection date	02/02/2012
Inspector	David Coulter
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	24/05/2011
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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, purpose-built children's home that operates as a reception and assessment centre. The home is registered to accommodate seven young people of either gender between the ages of 12 and 17 years and one place is kept for emergency placements. Young people undertake 12-week placements during which their specific physical, social and emotional, cultural, linguistic, educational and spiritual needs are assessed, and preparations made for either returning home or moving on to permanent foster or residential placements.

Progress

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

The home has now been operating for 11 months under its new remit as an assessment centre. The home received a full inspection in May 2011 when a judgement of good was made. As the home had only been operating for a short period of time when this inspection was undertaken there was only limited evidence available to determine if it was meeting its stated aims and objectives. The one requirement arising from the last inspection, relating to the production of a new Statement of Purpose and young persons guide, has been met.

Since the last inspection staff have developed effective systems to assess the physical, social and emotional needs of the young people referred to them. Twenty two young people have completed their assessments. From the information obtained, plans were developed that resulted in a number returning home while others have moved on to fostering, residential or supported living placements.

Evidence indicates young people are being appropriately supported during their assessments and are, in most cases, co-operating appropriately with staff. Young people are involved in decision making within the home and can exercise choice over such things as food and activities. Those who already have educational placements on admission are helped to maintain these and transport arrangements are developed. Staff assist those without educational placements to undertake educational activities on a daily basis. During their placements young people are encouraged to pursue full and active lives and access social and recreational activities both within the home and the local community.

The home operates with a team of extremely well-motivated staff who are led by an experienced manager. The staff team works effectively together and is developing new and imaginative working practices, including outreach work with families, to ensure young people are effectively supported when they return home. Staff spoke in positive terms about working in the home and were enjoying the many challenges associated with developing comprehensive and accurate assessments. Staffing levels

are subject to regular review and are adjusted in response to the changing needs of young people. For example, due to concerns relating to the behaviour of one young person, wakeful night staff are now deployed.

The home has, since the last inspection, demonstrated that it has developed effective strategies in engaging young people in the assessment process and that the information obtained is being used appropriately in developing successful pathway plans that have resulted in positive outcomes for young people. There are no requirements or recommendations arising from this inspection.