

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC037762
Inspection date	18/12/2012
Inspector	David Coulter
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	16/07/2012
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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.

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 last inspection the home was judged as being adequate. At that time staff were having to deal with a set of exceptional circumstances brought about by the emergency admission of a group of unaccompanied young people from North Africa. There was a reluctance on the part of these young people to engage and as a consequence it was difficult for staff to effect positive outcomes. The homes stated aim of providing short-term assessment placements was being clearly compromised as no alternative placements for these young people had been identified. It was recommended that the home review its Statement of Purpose to ensure it accurately reflected the nature of the provision. It has now returned to its core aim of providing short term placements.

Since the last inspection a new hub management structure has been introduced. Within this new structure the home is to play a key role by providing twelve week placements during which an assessment of each young person's physical, social and emotional, cultural identity, linguistic, educational and spiritual needs will be assessed. The assessments play an important role in determining where a young person will be placed.

At the time of this inspection the home was accommodating three residents, one of whom had returned following the completion of an intensive fostering placement and was being assessed for her ability to move on to semi-independent living. All three residents have education or training placements. Attendance levels for two of the young people are extremely good. All three residents are being provided with opportunities to develop their independent living skills and for example regularly using public transport. Young people's social horizons extend beyond the home and they regularly meet with friends and associates in the local community.

Staff have established meaningful relationships with each young person and are providing effective support and guidance. Young people are responding positively to the consistent behavioural boundaries provided by staff and incidents of anti-social and challenging behaviour have decreased significantly. One young person met during the inspection spoke in positive terms about the care he was receiving. He was observed to be at ease in the company of staff on duty.

The home operates with a team of extremely well motivated staff who are led by an experienced manager. There is a culture of training and professional development within the home and staff are keen to further develop the assessment function of the service they offer. The home continues to provide a nurturing and safe environment in which the specific care needs of each young person can be assessed. No requirements or recommendations were identified during the 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*.