

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC037984
Inspection date	19/12/2011
Inspector	Stephen Graham
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	15/06/2011
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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 local authority home provides care and accommodation for up to three young people, of either sex, aged 12 years to 17-years-old.

Progress

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

The home is currently judged as good. Since the last inspection, the manager and staff team have worked effectively to further improve the service. The two actions (requirements) set during the last inspection, and three of the four recommendations made, have been implemented in full. One recommendation is not yet fully met and is therefore re-stated in this report.

The home has a Statement of Purpose which has been reviewed and improved and now includes all of the information required. Monitoring visits to the home are completed on behalf of the registered provider. The organisation of these visits has been improved to ensure that they now take place at the frequency required by regulation. Written information about the service is provided to young people. This information has been improved to include a range of photos of the building and facilities to help young people become more familiar with the service in advance of their move in.

Detailed risk assessments and regular safety checks are completed by staff to help ensure the home is a safe place for young people to live in. The arrangements to record the completion of any necessary repairs at the home have been improved, with clearer records of these now being maintained. The staff team overall are experienced in working with children and young people. They are supported to access additional training opportunities and to remain up to date with their required training. However, not all of the staff team are currently sufficiently qualified.

The manager and staff team use a range of surveys and meetings to consult with young people, their parents, carers and placing social workers. This helps ensure that the wishes and feelings of young people and those involved in their care are taken into consideration in the day-to-day running of 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 that all care staff have attained a minimum level 3 qualification. (NMS 18.5)