

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	06/12/2011
Inspector	Graham Robinson
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	23/03/2011
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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

The home is a 72 foot narrow boat that travels around the canal network. It accommodates one young person of either sex for both short or longer term placements. The home is managed by a private company.

Progress

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

The inspection coincided at a time where no young person was placed, although the home has been active recently and there is an expectation it will be again soon. As a result of this, staff were not working and the inspection took place with only the manager present.

At the last full inspection the home was judged as satisfactory. Following a more recent interim inspection, five requirements and two recommendations were made and have been carried over to this inspection. Each one has been addressed positively.

As a result, progress has been achieved in the following areas; physical intervention incidents are now adhering to the agreed measures laid out in the behaviour management policy, young people have access to medical advice and treatment when required, all records and documents relating to a young person are being kept up to date and being signed appropriately by staff and the manager and the internal monitoring of the home is taking place with greater consistency and within the frequency required by regulation. An application to register the manager has been received by Ofsted and the final stage of that registration was concluded during this inspection.

In addition, the manager has improved the evidencing that young people are being consulted regularly and their views and wishes are being taken account of. All permanent staff have either gained or about to gain an appropriate professional qualification.

The manager has demonstrated continued improvement by addressing all requirements and recommendations and by introducing some new initiatives of her own. For example, the formats for recording centrally, complaints, sanctions, medication, incidents of physical intervention and missing from home have been revised and updated. The level of recording for all these areas has improved significantly, with greater detail and more evaluation. Young people's views are also being recorded, giving them a platform to record their views, thoughts and opinions.

Records show that young people have been kept safe whilst living at the home and

that they have benefitted from living in a non-punitive environment. Examples of young people improving their outcomes based on their starting points were provided by the manager.

The home's aims and objectives are being fulfilled. There are improved internal quality assurance systems being used to monitor the operation, organisation, young peoples welfare and the home's records. This in turn ensures young people's individual needs are being identified and met. The internal monitoring of the home complies with the requirements of Regulation 34. However, the external monitoring of the home has not taken place with the consistency and frequency required by regulation.

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
33 (2001)	ensure the external monitoring of the service takes place consistently, within the required timescale. (Regulation 33)	31/12/2011

Recommendations

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