

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	24/01/2013
Inspector	Stephen Trainor
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	08/10/2012
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Service information

Brief description of the service

This children's residential unit is operated by a local authority and provides care for up to six young people of either sex aged from 11 to 17 years. The unit takes emergency placements. Placements are also available for young people bailed or remanded by a court.

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 previous full inspection, the home was judged as outstanding. The children's home has maintained a high quality of care between inspections and this continues to secure some good outcomes for children and young people. The home provides a strong, child-focused service that is conducive to young people developing their potential.

A recommendation set at the last inspection had been addressed in full and this led to consultation processes being extended further to capture more stakeholders' views. The views of stakeholders and young people are clearly being listened too and these provide ideas for continuous improvement at the home. New initiatives are constantly introduced as a result of consultation processes. Everyone connected with the service is contributing to controlling the home's activities and this adds value to the quality of the services being provided. The young people remain central to everything at the home and staff work at a pace suited to them.

The views of the young people, staff, family members and stakeholders are also

being captured during visits made to the home under the requirements of Regulations 33 and 34. Reports produced following these visits provide a clear snapshot in time of what it is like to live there. Reports clearly evaluate and analyse processes and data and this supports the home's improvement agenda. The home's Registered Manager, with the support of a highly experienced, fully qualified and competent staff team, champions many areas of work. Young people have gained a great deal of self-knowledge, self-awareness and self-esteem through their involvement and participation in many different events within the surrounding community. The home supports different charities with its fundraising events.

Young people benefit from consistent practice that allows their lives to improve considerably. Introductions to the service are managed very well and this means young people settle quickly. The peer group dynamic remains compatible at all times. Young people quickly build strong and trusting relationships with staff. Young people also learn how to value difference and this allows minor disputes to be resolved quickly. As part of the home's safeguarding response there has been some good work undertaken linked to cyber bullying. Young people's individual education arrangements are supported very well and, with the encouragement given, attendance and achievements remain good.

The ethos and culture at the home clearly places young people at the forefront of practice. Communication with individuals is excellent and young people reflect on and respond positively to their personal circumstances. Young people's engagement with health professionals improved between inspections. Individual's programmes clearly support mental health and well-being. The looked after children nurse advises young people about sexual health. Programmes run by key workers positively change young people's behaviours. Young people regularly reflect on their progress with staff and this keeps them motivated.

Young people work closely with staff and hard work has created an interesting home where they like to be. It is clear that individuals prosper in the home's friendly and caring environment. Young people confirm that they are happy, safe and relaxed living in their home. There have been few behaviour management concerns. Young people know what their future plans are and show good commitment to achieving their targets. Young people take on greater responsibility for their independence and are well prepared for the time when they leave the home.

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*.