

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	28/12/2011
Inspector	Graham Robinson
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	20/04/2011
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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 children's residential unit provides care for up to six young people of either sex aged from 13 to 18 years. The unit takes emergency placements. Placements are also available for young people bailed or remanded by a court, or when family or previous placement breakdown occurs. A minor variation application has been received to change the age range to 11 to 17 years. This is ongoing.

Progress

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

At the last full inspection the home was judged as outstanding. There has been continued improvement regarding the quality of care and the positive outcomes being achieved by young people. Young people benefit from being cared for by an experienced and committed staff team who provide stability and a consistency of practice that allows all areas of their lives to improve.

Previous recommendations have been addressed positively leading to improvements with the young person's guide and with the quality of recording in the missing from home records. No new requirements or recommendations have been made as a result of this inspection.

Young people and staff work together positively to create a vibrant home where young people can settle and prosper. The views of young people influence certain aspects of the home's operation and future direction. Relationships are excellent with individual differences accepted and valued by all living and working at the home. Young people say they feel safe living at the home.

Positive outcomes are being achieved and young people continue to receive an excellent standard of care from an experienced, competent, well motivated and qualified staff team. Managers stimulate the enthusiasm of staff and channel their efforts effectively. It is a strong, child-focused service that is conducive to developing young people's aspirations. Staff remain fully up to date with professional and legal developments.

Placements are stable and there are no behaviour management concerns. The promotion of young people's education, health and well-being are excellent and their achievements help them to develop greater self esteem, allowing them to look positively to the future. Young people reflect on their progress regularly with staff, which helps to keep them well motivated.

Young people are well prepared for the time when they leave and transition planning is effective to enable sustained engagement both socially and educationally. Although

the home has clearly defined boundaries which are understood and generally accepted by young people. They are encouraged to take responsibility for themselves and their own actions. The ethos of the home is to work positively with young people who are encouraged to learn from mistakes in a non-punitive way. This develops trust and encourages young people to become more resilient.

The home's aims and objectives are being fulfilled. There are good quality assurance systems in place to monitor the operation, management, young people's welfare and the home's records. Monitoring systems meet with regulatory requirements. Realistic and challenging targets are outlined within the home's development plan, with areas for development clearly defined.