

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	20/02/2012
Inspector	Helen Walker
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	02/09/2011
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Service information

Brief description of the service

This service is a local authority children's home. The home provides care and accommodation for six young people who have emotional and/or behavioural difficulties.

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.

The overall judgement at the home's last inspection was good. The children's home has demonstrated a continued improvement in quality of care and outcomes for young people. The manager has addressed the one requirement and three recommendations made at the previous inspection. These relate to; young people's statutory review meeting minutes, sanctions, anti-bullying and skills for independence.

Young people's file records now contain full details of their statutory review outcome. This helps to inform staff of young people's changing care needs. Sanctions are appropriate to the misdemeanour. More emphasis is now placed on praise and reward for the benefit of young people.

Young people benefit from a caring and enthusiastic staff team. Staff have a very good understanding of young people's individual needs and endeavour to meet them. The staff team are qualified and experienced in their work. The interaction between young people and staff was seen to be warm, engaging and responsive

Young people said staff deal with bullying incidents properly. Anti-bullying behaviour is significantly promoted. However, relationships between some of the young people are tenuous at times. Staff review and involve other professional agencies to strengthen the behaviour management plans of young people. Not all young people are responsive to staff intervention. Some young people feel staff do not do enough to lessen the impact of young people's inappropriate behaviour on others.

Young people's skills for independence are promoted well. Everyday living skills are taught so that young people understand and gain appropriate skills for leaving care. Staff understand the need to keep young people safe and receive regular child protection training. Young people said they feel safe in the home and get on well with the staff who look after them. Young people said one of the best things about living in the home is always having someone to talk to. They feel able to approach staff and discuss matters of concern or just have a general chat.

Education is given a high priority. Staff and the home's education champion maintain links with educational establishments and the virtual school head teacher. Some young people have recently chosen to leave school and college. This means they are currently not in education, employment or training. Staff work tirelessly to promote and involve young people in education. Young people talk about their aspirations and staff support to achieve them.

The house is well maintained and welcoming. There is comfortable furniture and young people's choice of decoration. Young people were seen to be relaxed and at ease in the homely environment. Staff continue to undertake training and opportunities to enhance their professional development. One recommendation has been made from this inspection.

Areas for improvement

Recommendations

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

- ensure there is an environment and culture to promote models and support positive behaviour, in particular that this relates to behaviour between young people. (NMS 3.2)

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)*.