

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	12/03/2012
Inspector	Monica Farrimond
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	06/10/2011
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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 provides care and accommodation for up to three young people of either gender on a medium- to long-term basis. The home is run by a local authority that provides services to support young people with emotional and behavioural problems.

Progress

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

This interim inspection has focused on the progress made by the home since their last full inspection, in which they were judged to be outstanding. The children's home has demonstrated continued improvement in the quality of care and outcomes for children and young people. The young people benefit from sound and consistent practice, underpinned by thorough comprehensive placement plans. The views of the young people are consistently sought and this information is used to influence the operation of the home. Young people feel their views are taken seriously. This helps to promote self-esteem and confidence. Relationships between staff and young people are excellent.

The young people accommodated at the home are encouraged to develop socially acceptable behaviour through sound relationships with the staff and positive reinforcement. Staff share information about each young person in staff meetings, and careful consideration is given to the handling of negative issues and promoting acceptable behaviour. This ensures that there is a consistent approach to any issues arising with the young people's behaviour.

The manager and staff work positively with other professionals to bring about the best possible outcomes for the young people accommodated. They ensure that communication is good and any concerns of the young people are shared and acted upon in a timely fashion. Parents and social workers are consulted and kept up to date about how young people are looked after and their views are also sought about the home's operation. This consultation gives parents and social workers a transparent view of the organisation, while also giving them the opportunity to have an input into the care of the young person. Documentation shows that staff, young people, their social worker and, where appropriate, parents, are aware of and agree with any changes made to care plans. This process has the benefit of keeping people informed and involved and contributes positively towards statutory reviews.

The home's aims and objectives are being fulfilled. The manager and staff continue to develop the home's procedures and documentation with an imaginative and professional approach. The staff share the improvements in good practice with enthusiasm and commitment. There are good quality assurance systems being used to monitor the home's operation, management, records and young people's welfare.

Planning for the future is founded on robust evidence which identifies areas of weakness and builds on the areas of strength that this service demonstrates.