

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC040631
Inspection date	23/02/2012
Inspector	Angus Mackay
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	05/05/2011
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Service information

Brief description of the service

A local authority manages the home, which is one of a number of homes administered by them. The home provides care and accommodation, for no more than eight young people, from diverse backgrounds. The home works closely with schools, social workers and families to provide a service to children with emotional and, or behavioural problems.

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 inspection judgement was good at the last full inspection on 05 May 2011, with one recommendation being set. The home has successfully addressed this giving level 3 training to all staff to ensure they provide appropriate care to young people. The home has made good progress in improving the safety of young people, monitoring the activity, progress and conduct of the home and in preparing staff for new ways of working with a different Statement of Purpose.

Young people feel safe. There are warm and affectionate relationships between the young people and staff. Young people are achieving their educational potential through the positive help that staff provide to them. This includes making sure: they are appropriately dressed; arrive in school on time and are supported to do their homework in a dedicated area that is conducive to study.

Young people are enthusiastically engaged in improving their health, with assistance from staff. Young people benefit from staff advice about a balanced diet and say that

they all eat fresh fruit and vegetables to improve their health. Young people engage in a wide range of physical activities for fun and to help them stay fit or loose weight in a safe way. Staff use the activities to entertain the young people, to improve their social skills and to achieve improvements in their health.

The manager uses internal and external monitoring reports effectively; for example, to reduce serious incidents and incidences of going missing. While external monitoring visits had not always occurred at the required frequency more recently they have been regular. Young people contribute to the external visitor's reports. The arrangements for monitoring ensure that, young people engage in the management of the home and that their safety is promoted. However, while the manager regularly monitors and evaluates the service copies of the reports made are not supplied, at a frequency of six-monthly, to the HMCI; this is required by regulation and is set out in statutory guidance.

The manager has implemented a new e-safety protocol using software. This is designed to identify key words that mean there may be a threat to a young person when they are using the internet. A member of staff will act as a system administrator to respond to words identified as threats or in other ways identified as inappropriate. Young people are aware that staff will monitor online activity to prevent bullying and improve safeguarding.

Young people are receiving a service from a staff team who are all appropriately qualified or are in the process of gaining a level 3 Children and Young People's Workforce Diploma. In addition staff are training in a restorative justice model, aimed at minimising the involvement of young people in the criminal justice system. Staff are seeking further improvements in safeguarding young people by improving the missing persons reporting and through the analysis of incidences of absence. For young people who display high risk behaviours, or when there are warning signs that behaviour is becoming risky, an early planning meeting is held. Staff use this to coordinate interventions from all professionals working with the young people including, social workers, police and mental health professionals. For example, the police response to a young person going missing can be more immediate to protect vulnerable young people from harm and exploitation in the community. The manager is working with other homes to review all procedures and implement systems which will allow staff to accurately monitor outcomes for young people.

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
34	ensure the reports in respect of any review conducted for the	30/03/2012

(2001)	purposes of monitoring and improving the quality of care are supplied to the HMCI (Regulation 34(2) Schedule 6)	
33 (2001)	ensure that visits in accordance with this regulation take place at least once a month and that the written reports on the conduct of the home are supplied to the HMCI. (Regulation 33(1-5))	30/03/2012

Recommendations

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

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)*.