

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	02/02/2012
Inspector	Maria McGranaghan
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	23/05/2011
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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 home provides care and accommodation for up to six young people of either gender, between the ages of 11 and 17 years, with emotional and behavioural difficulties. It is a home run by a local authority.

Progress

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

At the last full inspection, dated 23 May 2011, the home was judged as satisfactory. The home is making good progress. The home has demonstrated improvement in the quality of care and outcomes for children and young people. The home has suitably addressed the two requirements and four recommendations made at the last inspection.

A review of the behaviour management methods, including physical intervention, has been undertaken within the home. As a result, suitable consequences are in place that assist young people to understand their behaviour. Likewise, where physical intervention is necessary, young people are provided with an opportunity to discuss and review the circumstances leading to the intervention. A system for managing and reviewing all safeguarding matters is now in place in the home. This system provides an excellent chronology of events highlighting how safety is managed, maintained and promoted. Records relating to day-to-day events are now clearly recorded and signed, ensuring all matters are addressed appropriately. Equally, Regulation 34 monitoring has improved. Graphs, highlighting trends and patterns, have been developed to enhance the overall monitoring of the service and are routinely used with young people to review progress in the home.

Young people live in a home that provides a caring and supportive environment that suitably meets their needs. Staff receive appropriate training, supervision and support in order to maintain a consistent approach to the care of young people.

All young people attend education facilities appropriate to their individual needs. Staff liaise closely with schools and ensure that all young people receive the right level of support in accordance with their personal education plan. Attendance and attainment is consistently good with young people gaining qualifications in sports science and care.

Young people take part in a range of both individual and group activities. Weekly activity programmes are drawn up by young people and this encourages them to try out new leisure interests. Regular visits to the gym, jogging and playing football support the home's healthy living plan for all young people.

Young people are making good progress in learning how to take responsibility for their behaviour. Regular keyworker sessions offer young people a variety of options to address their behaviour, such as restorative justice. This has proved successful. As a result, there has been a reduction in sanctions and physical intervention within the home. Young people are making sustained progress in an environment dedicated to meeting the complex needs of young people.

The home's aims and objectives are being met. Quality assurance systems are in place and suitably monitor the operation and management of the home. However, the six-monthly summary of Regulation 34 monitoring, as detailed in Children Act 1989 Guidance and Regulations Volume 5, has not been completed. As a result, one recommendation is made at 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 that Regulation 34 monitoring summaries are forwarded to Ofsted at six monthly intervals. (Volume 5, statutory guidance, para.3.14)