

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	06/03/2014
Inspector	Maria McGranaghan
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	03/05/2013
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Service information

Brief description of the service

This home provides short term respite care for up to five young people with emotional and behavioural difficulties. The home is run by a local authority.

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 purpose of this visit is to assess the progress made since the last inspection and how any progress has improved the quality of care and potential outcomes for young people.

At the last inspection on 3 May 2013 the home was judged as good. The Registered Manager was asked to take account of three recommendations made to improve the quality of care provided in the home.

The home is judged as making good progress.

Since the last inspection the Statement of Purpose has changed for the home. The home now provides short break accommodation for up to five young people. The home works with young people and their families in order to strengthen family relationships and provide targets and strategies to overcome presenting difficulties in the family unit.

The home has made good progress in addressing the three recommendations made at the last inspection. Specifically, the admissions criteria for the home has been

significantly developed in order that accommodation is only provided to young people whose needs can be suitably met. A clear admissions criteria is also developed and this ensures that young people and their families are provided with opportunities to visit the home and meet the staff prior to accepting the offer of a placement.

Behaviour management systems are further developed. All staff are now trained in restorative consequence and this enables young people to realise the impact of their behaviour and the importance of putting things right. Young people work with their families to complete a direct work pack prior to admission to the home. This provides a range of information that enables staff to carefully target keywork sessions and family intervention meetings in order to address problematic behaviours. Consequently young people and their families learn how to make effective change together.

Young people benefit from a range of external services who work closely with them, the home and their families. This means that the most appropriate support is provided including education, health and social development. Consequently young people now fully engage within their educational placement, enjoy in meaningful activities and develop a range of positive relationships. As a result of careful care planning and extensive involvement with community agencies the service is proving successful in maintaining young people within their family home. A parent said 'I think this is a fantastic place it has really made a difference to our family.' A social worker said 'We really need more services like this, the outcomes are brilliant.'

Young people's safety is prioritised in the home. Good safeguarding systems are in place and work hand-in-hand with external safeguarding agencies. As a result, young people do not go missing or absent from the home during their stay. The home shows the capacity to improve.

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*.