

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC040926
Inspection date	08/02/2013
Inspector	Maria McGranaghan
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	31/05/2012
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Service information

Brief description of the service

This home provides care and accommodation for six 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**.

At the last inspection carried out on 31 May 2012 the home was judged as adequate. The manager was asked to take into account five recommendations made to secure further improvement to the quality of care provided in the home.

The home is judged to be making good progress. Placement plans are now developed to contain pertinent information including young people's individual identity, cultural needs and their views and opinions about their individual care arrangements. Young people have a better understanding about their individual plans and are developing a keen interest in target setting and reviewing their progress. Consequently, young people feel empowered in the care planning process.

Young people now benefit from a consistent approach to behaviour management. Strategies are developed, such as behaviour support plans, in partnership with young people and this enables them to identify positive behaviour management strategies. Likewise, young people are now encouraged to record their views and opinions about how their behaviour is managed in the home. This enables young people to reflect on their behaviour and consider if strategies are effective or in need of revision. As a result, young people are becoming more confident about discussing their behaviour

in order to seek out ways to make productive and positive change.

Young people benefit from attendance at educational settings skilled in meeting specific needs. On the whole, attendance is good with young people developing positive routines and commitment to their educational goals. Consequently, young people now view education as part of their daily lives and are inspired by staff to reach their individual goals and targets.

Young people are now offered a range of indoor and outdoor activities such as go-carting, swimming and the use of the gym. Individual interests are well documented. Young people are offered lots of opportunities to try out different activities they have not previously experienced. Likewise, staff acknowledge the benefits of young people being given the opportunity to play, irrespective of their age. Activities such as indoor arts and crafts, baking, and gardening are regularly undertaken with young people and this provides a good opportunity for them to express themselves through play.

The manager and staff have worked hard to further develop the way the home consults with parents. Staff undertake monthly visits to parents in order to provide up-to-date feedback on their child's progress. Likewise, parents are invited to contribute to the care planning process as well as offer their views and opinions about the quality of care in the home. Consequently, there is a significant increase in young people having positive contact with their families. As a result, some young people have been successfully reintegrated back into the family home.

The home is consistently monitored and the manager and staff work closely together to secure positive improvements in the quality of care provided in the home; 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*.