

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	05/01/2012
Inspector	Angus Mackay
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	25/05/2011
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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 children's home is for two young people and sets out to offer high quality care in a stable and safe environment. Most young people have planned admissions but the home does accept crisis placements.

The home offers a flexible range of living experiences that are sensitive to individual needs and acknowledge age, race, religion, sexual orientation, disability, and national and ethnic origin.

Progress

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

At the last inspection in May 2011, the overall effectiveness of the service was judged as good with one requirement to improve the standard of the accommodation. The home has made significant progress in addressing the requirement which is to provide suitable sleeping accommodation for staff. The home authority has agreed funding and plans for the project but has not appointed a contractor. The home plans to make the appointment of a suitable contractor within the month following the inspection. The acting manager confirms that care managers will ensure that the contractor abides by safe working practices and procedures to ensure the safety of young people during the construction of the extension. The acting manager accepts that, despite the progress made, the home has not met this requirement.

The assistant team manager is providing good leadership to the home in the absence of the manager. Staff confirm that supervision is regular and that the assistant team manager provides excellent support and encouragement to them to undertake core training and career development training, enhancing the service provided to young people. The home has a diverse work force which reflects the diversity of the young people accommodated. The assistant team manager displays an excellent understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of the service and of future actions required, but has no written development plan to aid monitoring of his delivery of a structured service to young people. The Registered Manager has reviewed the Statement of Purpose within the last year but needs to update it to reflect changes in national standards and to outline staff experience and qualifications more clearly. The assistant team manager conducts regular monitoring of the service in line with local and national requirements. The home regularly supplies external monitoring reports but has not yet sent internal monitoring reports to Ofsted.

Young people are very positive about the quality of care and support which staff provide. They confirm that they feel safe within the home and that staff assist them

to make progress in all aspects of their development. Young people are proud of their achievements and have a clear understanding of their care and education plans. Young people have been involved in recent staff recruitment and describe it as a very positive experience where their views were fully accepted. Young people highlight aspects of good practice from staff such as making them consider doing a variety of activities rather than just repeating the same familiar and comfortable ones. Young people also comment that staff only use physical interventions when absolutely necessary and that they do so appropriately when it occurs. They say that they really like the home, the food and the activities which staff do with them. The home continues to provide a good service to young people aiding them in stabilising difficult presenting problems and in accessing education successfully.

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
31 (2001)	ensure that staff working in the home are provided with sleeping accommodation. (Regulation 31 (10)b)	30/04/2012

Recommendations

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

- ensure that an evaluation of the monthly monitoring of matters set out in Schedule 6 is sent to HMCI at six monthly intervals (Children Act 1989 Guidance and Regulations Volume 5 Children's Homes 3.14)
- ensure that the Statement of Purpose is reviewed and updated (NMS13.3)
- ensure that the home has a written development plan, reviewed annually. (NMS15.2)