

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC057703
Inspection date	14/02/2012
Inspector	Angela Whiteley
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	23/11/2011
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Service information

Brief description of the service

This home is privately run and is registered for up to two young people with emotional and behavioural difficulties.

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 full inspection in November 2011, the overall judgement was outstanding. The children's home has demonstrated continued improvement in the quality of care and outcomes for its young people.

The recommendation and requirement made at the last inspection have been addressed. Quality assurance systems in place, to monitor the operation and management of the home, young people's welfare and progress, have been reviewed. Further planned changes to the Regulation 34 reporting system will better capture data and allow a more robust evaluation of the information being presented. The physical intervention and sanction records are correctly recorded in a volume kept for that purpose. Young people's views about the incident are sought and recorded appropriately; there have been no incidents of restraint, absconding or missing from home since the last inspection.

Placements are settled and young people are making excellent progress relative to the time they have lived at the home. Young people have developed positive relationships with staff. The stable and experienced staff group is suitably qualified to meet the current and emerging needs of the young people placed in the home. Staff

enjoy working at this home and feel they are well supported and receive high-quality supervision and appropriate training to help their development.

Young people are encouraged to fulfil their aspirations and receive support to achieve their potential. Young people's views are regularly gathered and these influence the home's operation and future direction. Young people are listened to and their views acted upon. Examples include a young person's request to change bedrooms or to have a new mattress, and the purchase of a deep fat fryer by the home. Young people are treated fairly and all expressed concerns are responded to effectively.

Pathway plans are being prepared for 'eligible' young people to enable them to prepare for independence and adult life. The home has developed its own semi-independence training skills programme, which allows young people to learn new skills at their own pace. Young people are encouraged to participate through a new incentive scheme, which has had a positive impact on young people's behaviour at this home. This area of work is a particular focus for the home at this time.

The promotion of equality and diversity is excellent at the home where young people learn to accept and value difference and build a positive self-image. The manager shows an enthusiasm and motivation for the development of new ways of working with young people to achieve better outcomes. The development and introduction of new direct work tools, to help young people with issues of attachment and relationships, is well supported by the staff. This will help young people to build stronger relationships and self-esteem and demonstrates the manager's proactive approach to managing the home.

The promotion of education, training, health and well-being is excellent. Young people are making good progress at college. Staff have developed strong links with other agencies particularly in health and social care. These positive relationships recently assisted in managing a difficult placement move for a young person who has now settled in a new home and managed to maintain positive links with the staff at this home.

Contact is well managed and is a particular strength of this home. Staff have developed excellent working relationships with family members. Effective communication ensures young people remain safe while away from the children's home and ensures some consistency in the care arrangements.

Young people live in a home that is warm, welcoming and safe and where staff provide excellent levels of care and support. The home is well maintained and decorated attractively.

There are robust quality assurance systems in place to monitor the operation and management of this home. The manager regularly reviews the quality of care to ensure any shortfalls are identified and that suitable action is taken to address these. This includes feedback from family members, social workers and other professionals. Young people are consulted regularly. The development plan is in place and

reviewed regularly. The Statement of Purpose is a working document that is reviewed by the organisation to ensure it meets the aims and objectives of the home. These effective measures ensure that the standards within the home remain high and continue to improve.

There were no shortfalls identified at this inspection.

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)*.