

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	08/02/2012
Inspector	Gwen Buckley
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	27/09/2011
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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 privately owned home offers services and care for up to four children and young people.

Progress

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

At the last inspection in September 2011, the overall quality rating for the home was judged as outstanding with one recommendation made. Good progress has been made since the last inspection. There has been no decline in the quality of care provided. The recommendation, to ensure new staff receive regular supervision, has been met as all staff have regular supervision.

Other developments have taken place. The Registered Manager remains in day-to-day control of the home; a newly-appointed acting manager assists him with the management of the home while he is overseeing developments within the company.

A new incentive to encourage young people to attend school has been introduced. However, young people are not happy with this and feel they are being punished twice for not attending school. Young people enjoy the activities offered at the home and report a variety including ice skating, cinema and shopping. They say they are given advice on a healthy life style; they are encouraged not to smoke and are eating food that is a lot healthier. Consultation with young people takes place on a regular basis. Young people feel listened to, safe and secure in the home. They know staff will take action to keep them safe and report that staff stick to the rules reasonably well.

Internal Regulation 34 quality monitoring takes place, although, a report of the findings is not available to help inform improvements in care practices. Young people report that, if staff need to restrain them, they are not hurt and feel that restraint only takes place to keep them safe. Staff talk to the young person involved in a restraint and record their views. However, all the young people who may have witnessed a restraint are not routinely given the opportunity to talk about how they feel.

Areas for improvement

Recommendations

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

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- produce and send a copy of Regulation 34 monitoring findings to HMCI within 28 days of completion. This specifically relates to producing and sending the reports at six-monthly intervals (Volume 5, statutory guidance, para. 3.14)
 - ensure sanctions and rewards for behaviour are clear, reasonable and fair, and are understood by all staff and children. This specifically relates to clarifying the consequence of not attending school (NMS 3.8)
 - ensure all children and staff are given an opportunity to discuss incidents of restraint they have been involved in, witnessed or been affected by, with a relevant adult. (NMS 3.17)