

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	14/02/2012
Inspector	Jo Stephenson
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	24/05/2011
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Service information

Brief description of the service

This is a privately owned children's home. The home accommodates up to four young people of either gender from nine years to 17 years with emotional or 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.

This interim inspection has focused on the progress made by the home since the last inspection in May 2011. The service has made good progress and the one requirement previously made has been addressed. Outcomes for young people have improved because of the continued improvement in the quality of care at the home. For example, the consistent approach of staff results in a stable environment for young people.

Young people enjoy exceptional relationships with staff and each other. Staff are able to recognise potential triggers for young people and identify early interventions to reduce the risk of harm. Consequently, young people are safe and feel safe. The home has an ethos of mutual respect and as a result, young people experience improved confidence and self-esteem. Incidents of concern are few and young people are encouraged to comment on any consequences and sanctions they receive. Subsequently, young people feel their feelings are considered.

Staff ensure that robust missing from home risk assessments and prevention plans are in place to protect young people. These are individualised, detailed and include

comprehensive protocols with local police services and placing authorities. As a result, young people benefit from an inclusive and coherent approach to their care.

Young people are actively encouraged to maintain positive relationships with their families and friends. Staff resourcefully support these relationships and young people say they are able to visit their families and friends and have them visit the home. Subsequently, young people are not isolated from their social circle.

Staff support young people with their physical and emotional health needs. They access internal specialist services such as play therapy sessions, and this means that young people profit from a collaborative and holistic approach to their care. Education is a priority for the home and attendance is good. Young people feel supported in this area with one young person saying 'I never thought I'd get any exams because I didn't go to school, but now I do and I really like it.'

The home operates detailed activity and independence plans for young people. These reflect effective consultation with young people and allow them to develop their life skills in accordance with their age. As a result, young people experience improved self-esteem and self-confidence and contribute positively to their placement. Equality and diversity continues to be promoted in the home and is considered in all aspects of care planning.

The Registered Manager ensures that monitoring systems are in place to scrutinise the quality of care for young people and identify areas for improvement. Feedback on service provision is actively sought from parents and other agencies. Consequently, young people live in an effectively and efficiently managed home. Staff participate in regular supervision that considers their work-life balance and promotes outcomes for young people.

The home is maintained to an appropriate standard and young people benefit from a recently refurbished bathroom. This is in response to the requirement made at the previous 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)*.