

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC064472
Inspection date	14/03/2012
Inspector	Sharron Escott
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	11/08/2011
--------------------------------	------------

© Crown copyright 2012

Website: www.ofsted.gov.uk

This document may be reproduced in whole or in part for non-commercial educational purposes, provided that the information quoted is reproduced without adaptation and the source and date of publication are stated.

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

The home is registered to provide care for up to four young women between 11 and under 17 years of age, who may have emotional or behavioural difficulties. The home operates a small-holding with vegetable and fruit gardens. A number of animals are kept including horses, chickens, ducks, pigs, sheep, and various small companion animals, including house cats.

Progress

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

The overall quality rating for this service was judged as good at the full inspection undertaken in August 2011. Four recommendations were made, three of which have been met.

The manager and staff team continue to demonstrate a very strong commitment to young people. Some young people have made significant progress; they continue to develop and achieve socially, emotionally and educationally.

Young people continue to benefit from living in an environment where warm, caring and supportive relationships exist between themselves and staff. Young people also feel safe and comfortable living at the home. Placing social workers describe the management and staff team as resilient, supportive and professional. Staff inform social workers frequently of progress and concerns relating to young people.

The current staffing levels reflect the supervision levels required for the young people in placement. The staffing rota identifies scheduled time for handovers and who is in charge at particular times of the day. As a result, young people are clear about who is spending dedicated time with them, how their daily living needs and concerns will be met and which member of staff is available to authorise any special requests.

Staff record young people's views following any sanction or restraint and support behavioural management measures with individual key worker sessions. This enables young people to reflect on their behaviour and make positive changes.

The manager has developed processes which promote consultation with young people, their families and professionals on the quality of care provided and the home's future development. However, there have been limited opportunities available for these systems to be used in practice, so consultation is not yet fully implemented.

Staff continue to support and promote young people's education to ensure that they are given every opportunity to achieve their full potential. Young people's attendance at their educational provision is good. Achievements are celebrated and reflect the level of support, encouragement and commitment provided by the manager and staff team. Placing social workers compliment the quality of care, excellent communication levels and management of the home.

Areas for improvement

Recommendations

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

- ensure that young people in the home are regularly involved in contributing to monitoring the operation of the home so that their views and any concerns are seriously taken into account. (NMS 21.1)