

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	02/02/2012
Inspector	Sue Winson
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	04/06/2011
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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

The children's home is a detached house in a residential area which is close to public transport links and community facilities. There are three bedrooms upstairs and one of these is used as a staff sleep-in room. Downstairs there is a lounge, kitchen, office/sleep-in room and a conservatory. It provides care and accommodation for up to two young people who are placed by their local authority.

Progress

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

At the last full inspection in June 2011 the overall effectiveness of the home was judged as outstanding and one recommendation was made and this has been responded to in full. No actions or recommendations have been made on this inspection.

Young people receive consistently high levels of support which enables them to make positive progress in all areas. Individualised care plans, which are updated frequently, are working documents which guide staff and ensure young people receive consistency of care. Young people engage in individual work to address their needs, supported by the skills and innovative practices of the staff group. They benefit from excellent promotion of their physical and emotional well-being. This has been strengthened by the recent appointment of a psychologist to provide support to staff and young people. Young people make excellent progress in education and are well supported to attend and achieve. Preparation for independence begins at as early as stage as possible so that young people can build on their life skills at a pace with which they are comfortable. Young people are supported and encouraged to maintain contact with their families and friends.

Highly individualised and positive behaviour management is well established, and young people respond well to praise, reward and encouragement. Positive relationships between the staff and the young people contribute to the effectiveness of the behaviour management plans. Few sanctions are used and physical intervention is rarely necessary. The service focuses extremely well on the safety of young people, who are protected by staff practices. Young people say that they feel safe in the home. Extensive risk assessments and risk management planning ensures that they are as safe as possible, whilst being supported to take age-appropriate risks. Appropriate actions have been taken by the home in response to child protection issues.

Young people are consulted formally and informally as part of everyday life and readily voice their opinions. They are given appropriate choices and their views are central to how the home operates. The home seeks the views of parents and other

professionals on a regular basis, and these demonstrate high levels of satisfaction about young people's care and progress. Young people are positive about their care and the support they receive.

The strong and committed staff group work together to provide consistency of care which the young people respond to very well. This is achieved through effective communication and working together with other professionals and parents to meet young people's needs. Since the last inspection the company training programme has been extended and staff can access courses more quickly. The staff group are extremely well supported and guided by the positive and effective leadership of the manager and deputy. Auditing and monitoring of the home has consistently been of a high level, and further improvements have resulted in highly effective evaluation of practice and management monitoring of outcomes for the young people.