

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	07/02/2012
Inspector	Bill Drumm
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	10/10/2011
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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 run by a private company which provides residential care and education for young people. It is registered to care for up to eight young people aged between 8 and 17 years old and whose main need for being looked after is because of emotional or behavioural difficulties.

Progress

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

At the last inspection in October 2011, the overall effectiveness of the home was judged to be good.

The home has made good progress since the last inspection. Young people remain well cared for and safe. Young people and staff have a warm, friendly relationship based on mutual respect.

Four recommendations were made at the last inspection and all of the matters have been addressed.

One recommendation was to ensure that the results of all statutory reviews are retained within the home. This has been achieved. This helps members of staff and young people know what decisions have been made, who has made those decisions and who is responsible for carrying out any actions.

The home's manager has also reviewed and updated each young person's behaviour management plan. Behaviour management plans are now designed to clearly show the progress young people are making in developing socially acceptable behaviour. The home's behaviour management policy has also been reviewed to provide clear guidelines for staff on how to ensure the accurate recording of all relevant information.

The home's manager has also reviewed the young people's guide to the home. The young people's guide now provides the contact details of each young person's Independent Reviewing Officer. Young people know who they can contact if they are unhappy about anything.

Each young person's health plan has been reviewed. Health plans now contain full details of each young person's health care needs and who is responsible for meeting those needs. The health care needs of young people are fully safeguarded.

In addition to the above, the home is making further improvements that enhance the quality of care provided to young people. The home has developed an independent

flat for young people to use as they near adulthood. The flat is located near to the home and provides the opportunity for young people to develop their daily living skills and to become accustomed to not having staff with them each day. This helps to prepare young people for independent living, to develop their emotional resilience and for them to become accustomed to living on their own.

The home's manager has also improved training opportunities for staff. Relevant outside agencies are invited to attend staff meetings in order to share their knowledge and experience. Examples of such agencies include representatives of the local borough council housing department who have shared their knowledge in relation to supported living, and the learning disability service, who have offered support and advice in relation to specific difficulties faced by two young people in the home.