

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	08/12/2011
Inspector	Michelle Spruce
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	07/10/2011
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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 home is part of the provision operated by the local authority. The home provides care for up to two young people aged between 12 and 17-years-old who have emotional and 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 quality rating for the service was judged as outstanding. There was one action raised.

Young people benefit from improved quality of care because of a dedicated, knowledgeable and committed staff team. Staff work hard to improve relationships between peers with individual cultural differences and as a result, social interaction is improved.

Staff work exceptionally hard to secure existing placements for young people during sensitive and complex circumstances. As a result, the aspirations and wishes of young people improve because staff support the process of their desired outcomes. For example, young people's individual wishes are taken into consideration following a significant change in their personal circumstances. Additionally, staff support and assist to ensure transition planning remains individual to the needs and aspirations of each young person placed. This means the full potential of young people is maximised when leaving care and disruption to young people's lives is minimal.

Since the last inspection, all staff have undertaken or refreshed their qualification in first aid. Furthermore, most staff now have additional certificates in paediatric first aid. However, no fire drill has taken place to safeguard against potential fire risk since the recent admission of a baby.

The leadership and management of the home is effective because it continues to evaluate and act on its findings to improve outcomes for young people. Young people feel represented by and have access to an independent advocate who provides additional support. Staff are very committed and supportive towards the young people in their care, which ensures their rights are explored to gain the best possible outcomes.

Areas for improvement

Statutory Requirements

This section sets out the actions which must be taken so that the registered person/s meets the Care Standards Act 2000, Children's Homes Regulations 2001 and the National Minimum Standards. The registered person(s) must comply with the given timescales.

Reg.	Requirement	Due date
32 (2001)	ensure, by means of fire drills and practices at suitable intervals, that the persons working at the home and, so far as practicable, children accommodated there, are aware of the procedure to be followed in case of fire. (Regulation 32(1)(e))	31/12/2011

Recommendations

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