

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	24/01/2012
Inspector	Debbie Foster
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	25/07/2011
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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

This privately run children's home provides care for up to four long-term placements for young people aged from 12 years old up to 17 years old.

Progress

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

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At the last inspection in July 2011, the overall judgement for the effectiveness of the home was good. Young people are continuing to make good progress in education, preparing for independence and building self confidence. A young person said 'I like it here, it's my house, I don't think of it as a children's home.' and 'The staff are fair and explain things to me.'

Two requirements and the majority of recommendations made at the last inspection have been met. Young people admitted to the home in an emergency are supported by looked after children documentation. This ensures the staff can assess whether they can meet their needs and make proper provision for the welfare of the young people accommodated. Written records of the measures used to control, restrain or discipline young people are kept. These include all the specified areas as set out in the regulation. This is to assist in a clear account being held which supports the monitoring of discipline, ensuring it is appropriate, fair and reasonable at all times.

Physical restrictions on normal movement within or from the home are not used unless this is necessary to safeguard children and agreed with the responsible authority. This ensures that young people's liberty is not routinely prohibited, giving them everyday freedoms expected within our society.

Staff have received additional training in self harm and in being an appropriate adult to assist in meeting the needs of the young people. Improved monitoring systems have been built upon. This has assisted in identifying omissions and deficiencies within the service to bring further improvement to the quality of care provided to young people.

Three recommendations have not been implemented in full. Although all new staff have commenced the level 3 Children and Young People diploma, not all have yet achieved this qualification to meet the recommended target of 100%. Therefore, this does not ensure that all staff are fully trained to meet the needs of the young people. The young people's home is kept in a good state of repair overall. The refurbishment of the kitchen and bathroom areas have commenced, although these have not been fully completed within a six month period. This does not fully promote

a positive environment for young people to live in. The home now has a development plan in place. However, this does not clearly identify any planned changes in the operation or resources of the service. Therefore, the development plan does not clearly indicate how the service is to bring improvement to the quality of care and outcomes for young people.

Areas for improvement

Recommendations

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

- ensure the environment is kept in a good state of repair and condition. In particular complete the refurbishment of the kitchen and shower room (NMS 10)
- ensure the home's development plan identifies any planned changes in the operation or resources of the service. In particular, what, how and when changes are to occur to bring improvement to the quality of care and better outcomes for young people (NMS 15.2)
- ensure all staff attain level 3 Children and Young People Workforce Diploma. (NMS 18.5)