

Inspection report for children's home

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

Date of last inspection	19/10/2011
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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 one of a group of four homes that have been set up to provide intake and assessment services for a local council. It provides short-term care and accommodation for up to three young people who have emotional and/or behavioural difficulties.

Progress

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

The last inspection took place in October 2011. An outstanding judgement was made across all outcomes areas. No requirements or recommendations were made.

This children's home demonstrates continued improvement in the quality of care provided with a clear and focused commitment to service development. A particular strength of the home is the strong management structure and the commitment of the staff team who are clearly very passionate about promoting good outcomes for young people.

Young people continue to receive well-planned care provided by a committed and competent staff team. Staff provide clear boundaries within a caring environment. Young people have a positive view of the care that they receive and say that their relationships with staff are good. Young people confirm that they 'feel safe' and that they feel that they would be able to talk to staff or their social workers, if they were worried or anxious.

When young people leave the home without staff knowing their whereabouts, there is a robust procedure in place to ensure they return safely to the home. However, this has not been done in liaison with the local authority or police.

The organisation and manager ensures that robust monitoring systems are in place to scrutinise the quality of care for young people. Areas highlighted for improvement are addressed immediately and practice changes are discussed during staff meetings and young people's meetings. As a result, young people benefit from a consistent approach to their care.

Feedback on service provision is actively sought from young people, their family, if appropriate, and other agencies. Consequently, young people live in an effectively and efficiently managed home. Staff participate in regular supervision that considers their work-life balance and promotes outcomes for young people. Some wear and tear to the decoration of the home and recent damage caused by the young people, detracts from the homely feel of the environment. However, this has already been identified and plans are in place to complete this work.

The culture and practice within the home promotes individual identity, difference and equality. As a result, young people receive quality care and support which is based on their individual identified needs.

Areas for improvement

Recommendations

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

- ensure if a child is absent from the home and their whereabouts is not known, the home's procedures are compatible with and have regard to Runaway and Missing from Home and Care (RMFHC) protocols and procedures maintained and managed by the police or by the local authority for the area where the home is located. (NMS 5.6)