

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	07/11/2011
Inspector	Russell Shackford
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	13/05/2011
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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 service is a young people's home run by a company. It provides three long-term placements for young people aged between 10 and 17 years who have emotional and behavioural difficulties.

Progress

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

This home is currently judged as good and the home was judged to have made good progress at this interim inspection. Outcomes for young people have improved because of the continued improvement in the quality of care at the home.

No actions or recommendations were raised at the previous inspection. However, continued improvement was noted in several key areas. The staff have worked in a determined manner to ensure that appropriate education placements are sourced quickly and, as a result, young people's education is disrupted as little as possible in order that they can continue to attend and achieve. The staff work closely with other agencies such as education welfare and integration officers, to secure good quality school placements. Young people confirm that staff are pro-active and challenging when seeking out appropriate education provision for them. Staff support young people in education planning meetings or represent their views if they choose not to attend. Contact between the home and a school is frequent and effective, enabling staff to support young people successfully with homework or personal targets. The manager has strengthened links with mental health services that assist the school and home staff in working together to achieve better outcomes for the young people. Staff describe young people as calmer and more enthusiastic about school. The staff make a lot of effort to encourage good attendance and ensure that the young people are well prepared for the school day. Personal education plans are in place and these are reviewed regularly. There are space, resources and facilities at the home to enable the completion of homework. A computer is available for the young people to use for educational purposes and well monitored internet access is available. The impact of this has been improved school attendance and associated enjoyment and achievements.

Improved school attendance has supported the efforts of the staff to support and encourage young people who were previously reluctant to engage in their particular interests and leisure activities. In an attempt to enable young people to socialise and to build their esteem and confidence, young people's involvement is well supported by staff who explore their individual choices, likes and dislikes. The staff have established very good links and relationships with community-based activity providers. Young people's friendships made at school have been strengthened by after-school socialising at the home or in the local community. Young people now

have greater involvement in activities and broader socialising. This has included in house games, playing out, cinema, swimming and days at the coast.

There is effective monitoring of the quality of care for the young people in the home. The manager has a good system to monitor, report and evaluate the administration systems of the home, ensuring what staff record they record well. Robust quality assurance processes are regularly carried out by people independent of the home, and any areas of weakness identified are promptly acted upon. These highly-effective evaluations ensure the standards within the home remain high and continue to improve.

There were no shortfalls identified at this inspection.