

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	12/11/2012
Inspector	Russell Shackford
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	30/04/2012
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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 who have emotional and behavioural difficulties.

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.

Progress

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

At the last full inspection carried out in May 2012 the home was judged as good. Following this interim inspection the home is judged to have made satisfactory progress. The home has maintained the quality of care and has addressed the recommendation made at the previous inspection. However, despite well managed, determined and innovative staff support, some young people have chosen to engage in risk taking behaviours, drug use and offending which has contributed to a decline in their outcomes. The manager has ensured that all efforts to arrest this decline are supported by regular training and supervision. Team meetings, reviews and inter agency strategy meetings are held regularly to review progress and consider further their efforts. Staffing levels have been increased to provide for one-to-one support where necessary. Close liaison with placing authorities ensures that a multi-agency approach and shared responsibility exists.

At the last inspection, a recommendation was made about the records relating to young people's care and progress at the home. Young people's case records have been improved to ensure that they contain the required information and detail. Young people, their family and social worker have been consulted to help improve

the plans with their beneficial contributions. Staff confirm that team meetings and supervision have been used to discuss how records can be improved. This has included a new approach to placement plan records which prompt staff to provide evaluative comments about young people's progress.

Notable improvements in outcomes for young people are in their health and education. Consistently applied routines about sleep and personal hygiene have contributed to young people's improved health. The staff have worked earnestly to engage young people with dental health services and have achieved outstanding results. This has resulted in much improved dental health for young people. Family contact continues to improve and young people are attending school full time without absenteeism. One young person has been recognised for his continued improvement in educational achievement by winning a school award.

There is effective monitoring of the quality of care for the young people in the home. There is a good system to monitor, report and evaluate the administration systems of the home, ensuring what staff record they record well. The manager's findings are fully recorded and evaluative; this aids service development. Any areas of weakness identified are promptly acted upon. This effective evaluation helps to ensure the standards within the home continue to improve.

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)*.