

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	05/01/2012
Inspector	Robert Curr
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	17/06/2011
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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 registered to provide care and accommodation for up to two young people aged between 10 and 17 years. The home provides care for young people who may need support with emotional and behavioural difficulties. The home is privately run and aims to support young people return to family, move to foster carers, or live in the home until they are ready to live independently.

Progress

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

At the last inspection in June 2011, the overall effectiveness rating for the home was judged to be good.

Satisfactory progress has been made since the last inspection. One requirement and four recommendations were made at the last inspection. The requirement has not been met and is raised at this inspection. Two recommendations have been met, one is repeated and one is now raised as a requirement.

The registered person was required to demonstrate how information within Regulation 33 reports, including the views of children and stakeholders, is being evaluated and used to promote continuous improvement and development. The Regulation 33 reports do not yet evidence that young people are consulted with; it is, therefore, not clear whether young people can actively contribute to the operation of the home.

A recommendation was raised to improve the accommodation provided to young people. This matter is partly addressed. The carpets that were stained and worn have been cleaned. However, the condition of the carpets has deteriorated further. Other aspects of the environment are now in need of attention. Lights in a bathroom used by young people are not working and the tiles are cracked and damaged. Sofas that are in the lounge are worn and have poor support in the seating area. This is not ensuring that young people live in a well-maintained and comfortable domestic setting.

A further recommendation was made to revise the young people's guide to the service. This matter has not been addressed. Therefore, not all young people have access to comprehensive information about the home and what to expect from their stay.

A recommendation was made to ensure that placement plans are sufficiently detailed to highlight all aspects of young people's needs. Current care plans are

comprehensively detailed in all cases and reflect young people's individual needs in all outcome areas.

The recommendation raised in relation to staff training is met. All existing staff have attained a minimum qualification at level 3. A number of staff are undertaking training to enhance their skills to meet the diverse needs of the young people they care for.

Staff continue to work hard to support young people's social and emotional development and enable them to develop emotional resilience and self-esteem. Currently, not all young people are responding to the strategies that staff adopt. This is resulting in very little progress in their lives. However, despite young people showing various degrees of cooperation, this service is responding to young people's changing needs. One young person indicates that they want to learn. There has been some excellent attendance at the local school over recent weeks.

As a result of this inspection, shortfalls in meeting the national minimum standards are identified. However the quality of care and outcomes for young people has been maintained.

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
31 (2001)	ensure that all parts of the children's home used by young people are kept clean and reasonably decorated and maintained, in particular the bathroom (Regulation 31(2) (e))	29/02/2012
31 (2001)	ensure the children's home is suitably furnished, in particular the worn carpets and sofa (Regulation 31(4) (a))	29/02/2012
33 (2001)	ensure as part of the Regulation 33 visits, the person carrying out the visits gathers the views of the young people living at the home to help form an opinion on the standard of care provided in the home. (Regulation 33 (4) (a))	29/02/2012

Recommendations

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

- ensure the children's guide contains information to enable young people to contact their independent reviewing officer and the Children's Rights Director.

(NMS 13.5)