

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	14/11/2012
Inspector	Amanda Ellis
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	04/07/2012
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Service information

Brief description of the service

This service offers long-term therapeutic placements for up to two young people who have emotional and behavioural difficulties. It is one of several homes owned and managed by a limited company.

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 **good progress**.

At the last inspection in July 2012 the overall rating for the home was judged as good, with three recommendations set within the inspection report. Since that time the children's home has demonstrated capacity for continued improvement.

The manager has appropriately addressed the recommendations raised at the previous inspection. Significant maintenance and decoration of the interior of the home is underway, therefore improving the homes internal living space. The manager routinely monitors all records for young people in line with regulations. This means identification of any concerns about specific incidents, patterns and trends can be addressed. Lastly, case files demonstrate that young people's views are routinely sought and recorded. This ensures that young people can communicate their views on all aspects of their care.

Young people receive care appropriate to their individual needs to ensure they achieve good outcomes. Their physical, psychological and emotional needs are met because the home provides an environment with integrated social, education and therapeutic professionals. Young people benefit from a well-balanced lifestyle

promoted by a skilled and knowledgeable staff team.

Since the last inspection there have been changes with the staff team. New team members have been transferred from the providers other homes. The young people know all staff members through contact with the provider's school. This means familiar and knowledgeable carers support the young people. Young people develop positive attachments and relationships with carers, which generally results with their behaviour becoming more positive and productive.

Care planning, risk assessments and behaviour management plans are individualised and comprehensive. Young people receive care which is responsive to their changing needs. This provides staff with clarity to enable effective support to young people.

Young people live in a safe, secure and stable environment. Levels of safety are good because staff implement the robust and regularly reviewed policies and procedures. Levels of missing from care episodes are low. However, young people are protected if they are absent from the home. The home has good protocols and procedures to follow should young people go missing, which are implemented appropriately.

Robust monitoring of health and safety of the home is a key strength of this home. The designated health and safety officer undertakes rigorous risk assessments for the building, activities and equipment. The identification of potential hazards and clear methods of control are in place to reduce risk. Regular fire drills are undertaken and fire alarm systems checked as required. As a result the building is safe, appropriately secure and young people protected from harm.

Leadership and management arrangements are robust. The home has a development plan in place which reflects practical proposals for continued improvement, with plans for improvements to the home, staff development and training.

Young people benefit from effective management and monitoring of the home. Independent monitoring visits take place on a monthly basis and the manager addresses any actions raised to secure improvement. The Registered Manager undertakes routine monitoring activities, in addition to the comprehensive independent monitoring. These combined systems ensure that young people receive a consistently good quality of care.

There are no recommendations or requirements made as a result of this inspection.

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)*.