

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	21/02/2012
Inspector	Jennie Christopher
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	20/09/2011
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Service information

Brief description of the service

This service is a registered children's home for up to seven young people aged 11 to 18 years with 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 **good** progress.

At the last inspection in September 2011, the overall quality rating for the service was judged as good with one requirement and three recommendations set within the inspection report. The 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 commitment of the staff team who are clearly very passionate about promoting good outcomes for young people.

At the last inspection, the requirement set was to ensure that all relevant notifications are forwarded to Ofsted. Although there have been no notifiable events since the last inspection, the Registered Manager is aware of when to notify Ofsted and the timescales in which this needs to happen. Recommendations set included ensuring young people know how to access advocacy services and the Children's Rights Director. A much improved young people's guide now contains this information. The document is stylised in an age appropriate and young person friendly manner.

The second recommendation concerned ensuring staffing arrangements take into account young people's cultural and ethnic backgrounds. The culture and practice

within the home promotes individual identity, difference and equality. Staff are proactive and supportive of young people's needs, ensuring they are able to access aspects of varying cultures as part of young people's placement plans and meeting individual needs. The manager recruits staff on their skills to appropriately communicate with young people in their care and the ability to provide substantial history to ensure full background checks can be completed. Young people have a positive view of the care that they receive and observed relationships with staff are positive.

The final recommendation relates to staff practice reflecting the new national minimum standards and regulations. This has been ensured via supervision, staff meetings and training. Staff are aware of the new standards and have continued to improve their practice to incorporate these.

Since the last inspection, systems to improve outcomes for young people have included a young people requested extra curricular activity programme where young people give their thoughts on what they gained from the activity via feedback forms. Staff commented that this has improved relationships and 'camaraderie' amongst young people as they experience working as a team. Also implemented for each young person is an individualised 'Book of Me'. This is completed individually and with key workers to look at identity and how to achieve future plans amongst other areas. Young people are more actively involved in the process of house meetings, using these as an effective means to voice their views. Effective management and regulatory monitoring systems review the quality of care that children receive and identify areas where outcomes for young people may be improved. These happen regularly and reports are of a good quality.

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)*.