

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	27/09/2012
Inspector	Jackie Graves
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	28/05/2012
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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 with emotional and behavioural difficulties. It is privately owned.

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 May 2012, the overall quality rating for the service was judged good. This home demonstrates continued improvement in the quality of care provided to young people. There is a clear focus on monitoring what goes on and developing the service. A particular strength of the home is the strong leadership and committed, enthusiastic and stable staff team.

The staff are passionate about promoting positive outcomes for young people. Education is given a very high priority and seen as central in helping young people achieve their individual ambitions; all young people are now involved in education or are in a college placement, attend regularly and are achieving very well. They are supported to participate in an extensive range of activities and events to broaden their experiences and develop their confidence, for example, on the recent summer holiday, through participation at social events with other children's homes and on a planned visit to Ghana.

Young people continue to receive well-planned care from a very competent staff team. Young people have very positive views about the home; they feel the staff are 'good' and really care about them. Staff set clear and consistent boundaries enabling

young people to positively manage their own behaviour and make progress, for example, with some no longer being involved in the criminal justice system. Staff successfully manage young people's behaviour firmly but fairly and with a good sense of humour.

Young people feel they are well supported to gain skills for their adult lives, for example, by learning to budget, plan for and prepare meals. Staff support young people to take part in decision making about their futures and their everyday lives; they encourage them to take responsibility for their own actions to assist in their personal development. Staff maintain vital links with young people when they move on from the home and young people stay in touch with them and other residents. Staff show extraordinary dedication and commitment to helping young people adjust to their new placements and lives.

Since the last inspection, those staff without the recommended vocational qualifications have enrolled to work towards achieving these; additional training has helped develop their skills in working therapeutically with young people. The physical appearance of the front of the home has improved, with plans made to refresh the internal decoration soon. The building is comfortable, well furnished and suits young people's needs. The provision of further pictures and posters makes the staircase and corridor area more homely.

The service celebrates individuality and diversity. As a result, young people receive very high quality care and support which is based on their individual needs. Their achievements are recognised and rewarded. For example, a recent 'Achievements Day' was held where young people's accomplishments were celebrated with their families, staff and social workers.

Effective monitoring systems review the quality of care and identify areas where outcomes for young people may be improved. These demonstrate an excellent level of consultation with staff and young people, and take place regularly. Reports of monitoring now include useful feedback made directly to young people so they are further involved in developing the home.

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)*.