

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	10/01/2012
Inspector	Suzanne Hogben
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	14/11/2011
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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

This children's home, run by a company, is registered to provide care and support to six children of the same sex with emotional behavioural difficulties and learning difficulties.

Progress

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

At the last inspection in November 2011, the overall quality rating for the service was judged as good with four requirements and five recommendations for areas identified for improvement. The manager was asked to make improvements in the recording of restraints, sanctions and administration of drugs. The previous inspection also recommended that improvements be made in the information available to young people and to the décor of the home. Progress since the last inspection is good.

The service demonstrates its capacity to improve because it has met the requirements and recommendations set. The Registered Manager has ensured that there is a more robust system for recording restraints which clearly demonstrates the effectiveness of the restraint and the methods of de-escalation used. Issues around recording of medication and administration of drugs have been addressed fully at staff meetings and training has been provided to staff to promote better practice. The sanctions used in the home are appropriate and young people are asked to sign to acknowledge their involvement in the process.

The home is well decorated and homely. Each young person has their own bathroom facilities in their room and these are of a good standard. The manager plans to improve the corridor to the bedrooms by using art work of one of the young people. This will add to the comfortable atmosphere of the home. Young people expressed the view that they thought their home was well equipped and a good place to live. One young person told me that a new television in the living room had been purchased because they had complained the old one did not work well. The manager clearly maintains an active overview of the standard of décor in the home and, as a result, young people feel well cared for.

Young people's views are highly valued in the home by the manager and staff. An excellent young person's guide has been enhanced further by the addition of the contact information for their independent reviewing officer. In addition, the manager has reviewed the detail in the home's Statement of Purpose which now contains more detail about all forms of security in the home. Young people clearly participate in the planning of their care and the staff are tenacious in their efforts to provide care which best suits the needs of the individual. For example, many of the young people receive therapeutic input and, in an effort to assess the relevance of this to

the young people, they have completed a questionnaire. The analysis of this information will be used to inform further planning of therapeutic involvement.

The Registered Manager has a development plan for the service which is reviewed consistently. Plans identify the need to develop the home and the outside area. In addition, there are clear plans for the development of appropriate training for staff. The manager is confident his plans are on target and shows evidence of effective monitoring within the home. For example, the manager is currently assessing the response of different staff groups to the young people's behaviour and how this affects intervention. This will provide a more consistent quality of care to the young people.

Young people feel happy and safe in the home and have excellent, strong relationships with staff. Staff consistently promote the social development of the young people and encourage a wide range of activities which are reviewed and monitored. Young people are set boundaries and know what is expected of them. As a result, they are expanding their own independence skills and developing their emotional stability.