

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC068803
Inspection date	26/01/2012
Inspector	Angus Mackay
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	12/07/2011
--------------------------------	------------

© Crown copyright 2012

Website: www.ofsted.gov.uk

This document may be reproduced in whole or in part for non-commercial educational purposes, provided that the information quoted is reproduced without adaptation and the source and date of publication are stated.

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 can accommodate no more than four children. The home is one of several homes, belonging to a company. The home provides a service to children with emotional and /or behavioural difficulties. It will consider emergency admissions subject to an assessment of that child's needs and with consideration of those of the children in residence. All children attend either a local mainstream school or one of the company's three schools.

Progress

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

The inspection judgement was good at the last full inspection on 12 July 2011 with one requirement being set. The home has maintained the level of service provided to young people and has made positive changes in certain areas improving the care of young people. The home has made significant progress with the previous requirement and the newly appointed manager has completed her application for registration with Ofsted. The home has good monitoring of the service and the manager's use of this information is a particular strength of the service. Two recommendations are set following this inspection.

Young people say that they feel safe in the home and that staff, the manager in particular, are very caring. They receive regular key working sessions and staff and managers are very approachable providing assistance with anxieties and worries whenever they occur. They say that young people's meetings are occurring more frequently and the new manager listens and responds to their requests in this venue and involves them in the running of the home. Young people describe the new manager as excellent and that she treats them as adults but can be strict when necessary. The manager has improved the menu in the home and introduced healthy snacks after school which the young people mention as improvements to the service. The young people say that most of them have their own telephones which they can use or they have access to an extension from the office. Young people consider staff restrictions on the use of telephones as appropriate, when they occur but staff should formally agree this with social workers. Young people should have access to calls without recourse to staff.

Staff commented on the many changes to staffing which have occurred in the last year and the stability which the new manager has instilled in the home benefiting the delivery of care to young people. Staff describe the manager as being knowledgeable, experienced and very approachable aiding them in their work with young people. Staff describe young people as settled and positively involved in activities and meetings. The manager provides appropriate supervision and training

to staff to enable them to provide good quality, safe care to young people improving their engagement with staff.

Young people benefit from close working between staff and the local children and adolescent mental health team. This close working has allowed staff to respond to young people's requests in relation to the use of medication and, where appropriate, have this reduced in a safe planned way. The manager has responded in a timely manner to points raised in the monthly monitoring visits. This has led to an improvement in safe care for young people by, improved recording of medication, better recording of fire drills and key working occurring more frequently. The manager has initiated a development plan for the home seeking to improve the consistency of care for young people through improved key working and planned service improvements. She uses information from her own monitoring of the service and analysis of this on a quarterly basis to ensure staff maintain good standards. The manager has not yet forwarded this analysis to Ofsted.

Areas for improvement

Recommendations

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

- ensure that an evaluation of the monthly monitoring of matters set out in Schedule 6 is sent to HMCI at six monthly intervals (Children Act 1989 Guidance and Regulations Volume 5 Children's Homes 3.14)
- ensure that children have access to contact with family ,friends and social workers and that any restrictions on this are agreed by the child's responsible authority. (NMS 9.4)