

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	07/02/2012
Inspector	Mark Kersh
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Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	16/11/2011
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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

The home is a privately run children's home, which provides care and accommodation for two young people with emotional and/or behavioural difficulties.

Progress

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

The purpose of this unannounced interim inspection was to look at the progress the home has made since the previous inspection. This included looking at the arrangements made to promote health and safety, the effectiveness of the leadership and management and the extent to which young people are able to influence the running of the home. At the last inspection in November 2011, the overall quality rating for the home was judged as good. There was no requirement and one recommendation set as a result of the visit. This was in relation to independence planning.

Young people confirm, and work books show, that a plan for independence is now being undertaken. Young people say they enjoy this and although they would prefer to stay in this home forever, they acknowledge that they have to eventually move on; they say staff are supporting them to be independent.

The leadership and management of the home continue to help improve outcomes for young people. Overall, young people are making good progress. Staff work together positively to create a vibrant home where young people prosper. Their views influence all aspects of the home's daily operation and future direction. Relationships are excellent with individual differences accepted and valued by all living and working at the home. Young people say they like living at the home and feel safe.

Staff ensure that they play a core part in promoting the safety and welfare of young people. Young people pick up good signals from staff who are good role models and staff have positive relationships with young people. Young people's efforts are rewarded. As a consequence, young people are achieving better outcomes in their education and learning skills.

The home successfully consults with young people, families, social workers and staff. The home has demonstrated this through informal and formal consultation systems. This includes formal meetings and using questionnaires as a means of gathering views and opinions. As a result the views of young people and those significant to them have been listened to and acted upon. Feedback continues to support a positive appreciation of the hard work that takes place at the home.

Health and safety within the home is promoted effectively and this ensures young

people benefit from a safe and homely environment. The home's aims and objectives are being achieved and young people's positive outcomes are promoted effectively. There are no issues with the management of young people's behaviours. Safe working practices are adhered to and young people benefit from excellent levels of individual support to promote their well-being and safety.

Since the previous inspection, the home has carried out a number of improvements to the premises. This includes a programme of redecoration and a change in bedroom facilities, as requested by young people. All these actions convey a welcoming environment which is inviting for young people. One young person commented, 'The home has been nicely decorated and we have had a say in the colours and wallpaper.'

The home has a development plan in place. Good progress is being achieved. For example, staff training and the maintenance of the property has significantly improved. Overall, the home is maintaining good quality care, support and guidance for young people. Young people's outcomes are consistently good in education and within the home environment.

One recommendation has been made at this visit in relation to guidance available for overnight stays for looked after children as staff are unaware of its existence.

Areas for improvement

Recommendations

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

- ensure staff are aware of current legislation and government guidance, in particular, overnight stays for looked after children. (NMS 5.3)