

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	29/02/2012
Inspector	Mark Kersh
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	06/07/2011
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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 privately owned and provides care and accommodation for one young person with emotional or behavioural difficulties.

Progress

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

At the last full inspection in July 2011 the home was judged as outstanding. This judgement remains the same. At that time there were no requirements or recommendations made.

The leadership and management of the home continue to be focused on helping to improve the outcomes for young people. Young people are cared for by a consistent and caring staff team who have a good understanding of young people's individual needs. Staff are well informed about young people's needs and care for them in a way that enables these needs to be met. Care planning documentation is up to date and detailed, enabling staff to meet the daily needs of young people. The interaction between young people and staff was observed to be warm, engaging and responsive.

Young people have very strong trusting relationships with staff which enables them to engage well. As a result, they continue to make progress in their lives. Young people are participating well in education or training courses. Young people's views are frequently gathered and strongly influence how their care needs are being met by the staff team. There are good examples of how staff have listened to young people and how every effort is made to ensure any reasonable requests are met. As a result young people feel valued and respected.

Fire safety in the house is taken seriously and a current fire risk assessment is in place. Young people and staff participate in regular fire evacuation drills. This ensures young people and staff are familiar with the fire procedures and the action to take in the event of a fire. Young people are cared for by staff who have first aid training. At least one staff member on each duty shift has a current first aid qualification to enable them to administer first aid treatment as necessary. However, medication records are not routinely checked and show balances of medication which do not correspond with actual medication kept within the home. This means that all medication is not accounted for and is not consistent with young people's placement plans.

Staff understand the need to keep young people safe and receive regular child protection training. Staff confirm their training and development is well supported. This enables them to develop their knowledge and skills in working with young

people.

The home's performance is monitored rigorously to promote the sustained improvement of the service. Staff are enthusiastic about their roles and their hard work, commitment and efforts are channelled effectively. Young people benefit from extensive support and they receive high quality care.

Areas for improvement

Recommendations

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

- ensure children's health is promoted in accordance with their placement plan and staff are clear about what responsibilities and decisions are delegated to them, in particular keeping accurate medication records. (NMS 6.5)