

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	17/01/2012
Inspector	Linda Brown
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	15/08/2011
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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 one of a group of homes operated by the same organisation as part of a tendering contract with a local council. Accommodation is provided for up to four children with emotional and behavioural difficulties.

Progress

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

At the last inspection in August 2011, the overall quality rating for the service was judged as outstanding with one recommendation set. The management and staff continue to demonstrate a commitment to the development of the service. Good progress is being made to improve to the quality of the care delivered to the young people.

One recommendation was set at the previous inspection regarding care plans, this shortfall was addressed immediately. Systems are now in place to ensure that the care plan is a working document that is continually updated and regularly reviewed.

Young people continue to receive a good quality of care. They benefit from a competent, consistent and dedicated management and staff team who are focused and committed to promoting good outcomes for young people. Visiting professionals from education and the police spoke about the excellent working relationships they have with the management and staff and the quality of the service which they provide to the young people. Young people speak positively about the care they receive and the relationships they have with the staff. They are confident that they could tell someone if they are unhappy about anything or anyone and staff would take their concerns seriously. As a result, young people receive high quality care and support which is based on their individual identified needs.

Since the previous inspection the management have demonstrated excellent working relationships with professionals and provided outstanding support for staff, young people and their families. Staff are keen to develop their knowledge and skills and have attended additional training in specific areas, such as, autism, sexual health and sense through horses. A commitment to providing young people with education is ongoing. The dining room and lounge area have been redecorated and young people took an active role in the choices made. This means that staff have the skills to care for young people. Improvements to the environment and the relationships with families and professionals provide positive outcomes for young people.

Robust and detailed monitoring systems are completed monthly by both internal and external managers. Consultation with visiting professionals, families and young people is intrinsic, regular comments are recorded, such as, 'excellent help very

professional - staff do a great job' and 'best place I have ever been - really committed to young people'. The manager gathers this information to effectively assess the service and implement changes to address any areas identified for improvement. Staff also take an active role in the development of the home and are encouraged to discuss their ideas for improvements through staff meetings and debrief sessions. Plans are completed annually and targets are set to ensure that there is an ongoing development of the service.