

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC368137
Inspection date	24/02/2012
Inspector	Linda Bond
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	11/10/2011
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Service information

Brief description of the service

The home provides care and accommodation for up to two young people of either gender, who may have emotional or behavioural difficulties.

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.

Progress

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

At the last inspection, an overall judgement of satisfactory was given. One requirement and a number of recommendations were made. The home has demonstrated an improvement in the quality of care, and in the management and leadership of the home.

The one requirement was in respect of ensuring young people, on admission, and HMCI were supplied with a copy of the children's guide. The current version, though adequate, presents as corporate. The home is working to develop a more child-friendly version and plans to involve young people in this process.

At the previous inspection, a recommendation was made to improve the homeliness and cleanliness of the home. The home has received a good clean, a renewal of some furniture and there is evidence of a variety of pictures and homely paraphernalia that promotes a satisfactory environment. The development plan addresses future improvements to be made.

Young people now have access to the internet to support their educational and social

needs. There is a robust security system in place ensuring young people's safety is maximised. The company provide information technology support on a weekly basis to ensure systems are secure and safe.

The home undertakes fire drills regularly. Evidence within the documentation suggests the drills are carried out at different times of the evening and day.

Young people have all documentation on their case files. This includes health and education plans. When young people move on to independence there are clear pathway plans that provide staff and young people with structure and guidance on the transition plan.

The home has a safe system of monitoring and administration of medicines both homely and prescribed. Staff no longer store their personal medication within the home.

Staff are supported by a new manager who has a strong commitment to the young people and has ensured that monitoring and recording is effective and accurate. Monthly monitoring systems are in place. Regulation 33 reports support the review and monitoring of the home.

The home's manager has a good understanding of the importance of regular supervision. There is evidence of regular supervision of the staff team. The home's manager encourages continuous professional development and includes a 'quiz' during each staff meeting to develop staff's knowledge. For example, the previous meeting looked at the national minimum standards and how the home can improve the outcomes for young people.

The home's manager has a developing knowledge of the home's strengths and weaknesses, as well as systems by which to efficiently manage. All staff are employed through well-managed and formal interview and recruitment panels. All statutory and reference checks are carried out to ensure that staff do not work with the young people until all appropriate references are gathered. Staff are supported by a new manager who has a strong commitment to the young people and has ensured that the home now has a development plan.

The home is currently empty as the previous young person has moved to a new placement. Young people are supported to move in a planned and structured way, ensuring young people are involved in the decision making process.

The home is going through a programme of refurbishment and regeneration. The home is showing signs of capacity to improve. There is a commitment from the manager to improving outcomes and raising the standard of care within the home for the young people.

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)*.