

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	08/02/2012
Inspector	Robert Curr
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	12/09/2011
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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

This home is registered to accommodate up to two young people of either sex from 10 to 17-years-old. The home provides care for young people who may need support with emotional and behavioural difficulties.

Progress

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

At the last inspection in September 2011, the overall quality rating for the service was judged as good, with three requirements and four recommendations raised. All of the requirements and recommendations are met.

An action was raised in relation to maintaining a pleasant home environment. The home has been redecorated in a number of areas and is cared for by both staff and young people to give a very pleasant and homely environment. The properties manager was present and confirmed that the new kitchen refurbishment was commencing the following day.

A further action was raised to further develop monitoring processes. Records show that regular visits under Regulation 33 of the Children's Homes Regulations are taking place and the manager actively monitors the quality of care provided as directed by Schedule 6, Regulation 34. The manager uses the information gathered to positively benefit the young people in her care.

The provider was asked to improve the continuity of staff along with addressing their training needs. Young people now benefit from consistent staffing levels and the care and attention from a well supported staff team. The majority of staff members hold the NVQ at level 3 qualification and have attended further training sessions.

A recommendation was made in relation to developing an annual development plan. Good progress has been made in relation to this. There is a detailed development plan in place. The plan highlights future developments. This will aid the manager to measure the progress of any objectives that have been set.

Young people continue to receive a good level of care from staff that are well trained and enjoy working at the home. The home is fully staffed and includes individuals with differing levels of experience and training, with newer staff completing their induction and developing a good awareness of the residential staff role to provide appropriate care to young people.

Since the last inspection there has been a change in residents. This has been well managed, with thoughtful introductions to the home. Staff have gained information

relating to young people's care from differing sources, including post-placement meetings; this ensures that individual needs are responded to appropriately.

Young people say they are fully involved in their care and the running of the home through regular individual sessions. These are well recorded and show that requests made by young people are responded to. Young people are also fully involved in recordings relating to their care and are able to make comments within a variety of records. Contact arrangements are fully supported by the staff team and this is appreciated by the young people. Behaviour management systems are in place and sanctions are fully recorded by staff to ensure consistency. These are frequently monitored by the quality assurance manager.

The manager is suitably experienced and competent. She is in the process of registering with Ofsted.