

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	14/03/2012
Inspector	Julian Parker
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	20/10/2011
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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 is a small private children's home catering for one young person aged from 12 to 17 years who may have emotional and/or behavioural difficulties. The layout of the home allows staff to quickly adjust the environment and the care being provided to respond to and meet the needs of the young people being accommodated.

Progress

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

At the last inspection in October 2011, the overall quality rating for the service was judged as good with no requirements or recommendations being made. Further steady progress has subsequently been made that has enhanced the resident young person's development.

The health, psychological and first aid needs of young people are very well met. Concerted efforts and practical help from staff ensure that young people attend all professional health appointments. Missed or refused appointments being consistently rescheduled emphasises their importance. Encouragement assists young people to understand the importance of attendance to ensure their longer-term health needs are enabled. Staff seek permission for medical treatment from those with parental responsibility where young people are not of sufficient age or ability to take decisions. Effective support promotes the health of young people.

Thorough ongoing attention and statutory review of placement plans confirms that they accurately reflect the current issues in the young person's life. They provide a detailed picture of young people by setting out how to address individual needs. The behaviour management aspects of plans receive thorough reassessment following any incident. Active and meaningful risk assessments ensure that the consistent management of behaviour effectively helps to keep everyone safe. Staff deliver through their practice, their commitment to and awareness of the individual support needs of young people.

Young people continue to enjoy a good consistency of care and have trusting relationships with staff. Staffing levels at the home remain stable ensuring young people know who are looking after them. Staff receive good support and regular supervision from the homes manager helping them provide the sensitive person centred-care essential to maintain the behavioural stability of the home.

An effective range of management systems monitor the quality of care provided and the running of the home. Monthly checks of in-house records enable the Registered Manager to identify trends and patterns that inform potential improvements to practice. In addition to in-house systems, an independent visitor carries out

Regulation 33 monitoring visits, producing formal feedback reports that highlight any shortfalls. This helps staff reflect and improve their practice. Effective behaviour monitoring and liaison with therapists and mental health professionals help facilitate the clinical review of young people's progress and effectiveness of care plans. Cumulatively, these systems ensure that the placement is successful in promoting positive outcomes for young people.

Young people are fully involved in, their individual transition and pathway plans and regularly have opportunity to practice independence skills. Meaningful integration in community settings through work experience, charity fundraising and displaying artwork reflects the home's success in helping young people to develop skills and self-esteem. Supportive staff enable young people to understand what is needed to eventually move on in a positive planned manner.