

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	01/02/2012
Inspector	Norma Welsby
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	22/09/2011
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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 children's home is privately operated. The home is registered for three children and young people between the ages of 10 years and 17 years of age.

Progress

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

At the full inspection in September 2011 the children's home was judged to be outstanding. At the inspection two recommendations were made. Firstly, a recommendation that a shower should be installed arose from consultation with young people and this has been addressed. The second recommendation related to ensuring staff training, including refresher training, is provided in a timely way. This has also been positively addressed, the details of which are recorded on a comprehensive spreadsheet.

The home's aims and objectives are being fulfilled. There are robust quality assurance checks in place to ensure the continued development of the service. The home continues to be effectively managed and staff are highly motivated and work extremely well as a team in the best interests of young people. Without exception, young people are highly complimentary about the staff who support them. It is apparent that staff are very committed to providing personal support tailored to meeting individual needs. There is a wonderful sense of respect and tolerance between staff and young people. Individual differences are acknowledged and valued. Relationships that exist between staff and young people are outstanding and contribute significantly to young people achieving excellent outcomes from this placement.

Young people display emotional maturity and are growing in confidence. They communicate effectively with peers, staff and authority figures. Young people are consulted regularly and feel that they can influence decisions about their future, for example, in their choice of college courses and career paths. Staff support young people to achieve personal objectives and are robust and energetic in securing additional support or advocacy for young people. Staff are extremely ambitious for young people. They support their education, including further education and also specific talents that they have, for example, dance and music. This contributes to young people feeling valued and having a positive attitude to what they could achieve in the future, including career opportunities and personal ambitions.

Staff are very good at encouraging young people to develop skills and confidence in a wide range of areas. For example, they have a dedicated weekly food budget to plan, shop and prepare up to three meals. Mealtimes are sociable occasions with young people eating and socialising together around a large kitchen table. Contact

continues to be well supported and has developed to meet the changing needs and aspirations of young people and their families. Staff fully appreciate the value of young people sustaining positive contact with parents and siblings, and young people benefit from excellent support in this area.

Young people continue to live in a very safe, nurturing and comfortable home. All young people are making excellent progress in all aspects of their lives. Young people confirm that they feel safe and well cared for. They feel they are benefitting from their placement and are justifiably proud of their achievements.