

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC386505
Inspection date	08/02/2012
Inspector	Norma Welsby
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	25/05/2011
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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 service is a private children's home, registered to care for up to two children 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.

Currently the home is not providing accommodation to young people. As there are no young people present, a proportionate inspection has been completed; the purpose of which is to decide that should an admission take place the service would be able to function to a satisfactory standard.

At the time of the last inspection the overall judgement was good. Five recommendations were made and good progress has been made. In relation to young people being provided with a pathways plan, it was confirmed that this was addressed prior to the young person being discharged. Similarly, placement plans were fully updated including contact arrangements. A statutory review attended by the young person's social worker was also held during which the planned future placement of the young person was fully discussed. In respect of the promotion of privacy and confidentiality, the home has a policy to provide young people with a key to their bedroom door and to replace this if mislaid. If the young person repeatedly loses their key or if there is a very good reason why they do not have a key, then in future the home will ensure that a risk assessment is in place and details of their rationale are fully documented. Finally a development plan was formulated in August 2011 and it was confirmed that this will be revised and updated once the home is fully operational.

The home has a registered manager and a full staff team that is currently working in the company's sister homes in the area. The registered manager maintains regular contact with all of the staff team. In total six staff plus the manager have been redeployed in temporary positions, but are on standby to return to the house as soon as a young person is due to be admitted. Staff are continuing to receive regular supervision and are benefitting from ongoing training. For example recent training opportunities have included first aid and behaviour management.

The home's environment is being maintained to a very good standard. In particular it is clean and warm and suitable to accommodate young people with immediate effect. The lounge has been redecorated and the kitchen and dining room have had some new soft furnishings and decoration. The home has recently applied for a variation to increase its numbers from two young people to three young people. Ofsted is awaiting clarification about the removal of a possible fire door before this application can be completed and the registered manager agreed to pursue this matter with the

fire officer.

The home's Statement of Purpose was reviewed in October 2011. It is clear, comprehensive and accessible. There are established policies and procedures in place and staff are maintaining their familiarity with these during their work in the company's sister settings. Arrangements are in place to monitor the quality and efficiency of the home through Regulation 33 and Regulation 34 processes. The manager is committed to making good use of these quality monitoring processes to further improve standards of care and outcomes for young people. The home has a detailed development plan, which will be updated again once the home is occupied.