

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	19/01/2012
Inspector	Norma Welsby
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	13/07/2011
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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 privately run children's home. The home provides long-term care and accommodation for three children with emotional or behavioural difficulties.

Progress

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

At the full inspection in July 2011, the children's home was judged to be outstanding. At the inspection just one recommendation was made. This matter, relating to access to all company policies and procedures, has been positively addressed.

Young people continue to live in a very safe, nurturing and comfortable home. Relationships between staff and young people are outstanding. Young people consistently receive high quality support from staff who are experienced, competent and fully qualified. 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 proud of their achievements. Progress in education and in making good lifestyle choices are areas in which young people feel that they are making very significant progress. Young people are effectively supported to take more responsibility for themselves and to make sound choices in respect of, for example, their behaviour and personal safety.

Young people's views are consistently gathered and responded to. Young people display emotional maturity and confidence in themselves. They can communicate effectively both with peers, staff and authority figures. Young people have engaged in their placement extremely well. One young person who has lived in several care environments said this placement was 'by far the best home' and that 'staff are amazing'. With the support of staff, young people are motivated to embrace a more positive future, including further education and aspirations to have a successful career.

Meals are home cooked and nutritional and mealtimes are sociable occasions. Young people are regularly consulted about their preferences. They have regular opportunities to cook and bake for themselves and to eat out.

Staff are very committed to providing personal support tailored to meeting the diverse need of young people. Their practice is very much centred on the specific needs of the young person, their past circumstances and how they can be supported to make significant progress during their placement. There is a great sense of respect and tolerance, with individual differences being acknowledged and valued.

The home's aims and objectives are being fulfilled. There are suitable quality

assurance checks in place to ensure the continued development of the service. The home continues to be successfully managed and staff are working effectively as a team. Staff retention is good and young people benefit from being supported by a staff team that they respect and know well. In turn, staff are enjoying ongoing training opportunities and support through staff meetings and regular supervision.