

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	28/02/2012
Inspector	Julian Mason
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	08/12/2011
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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 operated by a private company which has several similar homes in this area of the country. Care and accommodation for one young person is provided. The company has its own school for children not attending mainstream education and also offers, if a child wishes, weekly therapy as part of the ongoing care.

Progress

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

The home was judged as outstanding overall at the last full inspection in December 2011 and this grade remains in place. The home was judged as being fully compliant with the necessary regulations so no requirements were made. One good practice recommendation was suggested and this has been actioned. The written children's guide contains updated information ensuring young people know who they can contact if they wish to talk to somebody outside of the home.

Young people like living at the home and feel very safe. The home's staff continue to provide a very stable and consistent living environment where young people can flourish and grow into being responsible young adults. The Registered Manager and staff team make considerable efforts to ensure the care and support provided is matched to a young person's needs. This includes frequent consultation so staff are fully aware of young people's wishes and feelings.

Great care is taken to ensure young people learn the things they needed to know to live independent lives in the future. Detailed plans are drawn up which young people help to design and staff to follow. The home creates arrangements and circumstances where young people use and develop their life skills in a practical way. For instance, young people manage a household budget, shop, cook and carry out domestic routines that are matched to living independently. In addition, young people are encouraged to learn about and communicate with outside organisations and services they will need to use when living in their own home. Staff help build confidence and approach life skills training through effective coaching and mentoring practices.

Young people state that they are getting the right support to help them achieve their goals. Where young people feel that arrangements could be improved or that they would like more responsibility and control over their lives this is discussed. Staff and young people negotiate and compromise to reach agreement and these skills are valued and promoted as an important way of working together. Staff want young people to do well at school and they ensure young people know and understand the value of education. For instance, arrangements for revising before exams are currently a high priority. Although young people do not always want to do this work,

they know that staff promote these routines as it is in their interest to prepare for exams.

Monitoring visits are routinely carried out and written feedback is provided about the home's operation; this includes areas for improvement and development. The Registered Manager also regularly evaluates how well the home is meeting young people's needs and keeping them safe. This information is used to formulate future plans and goals for the service.