

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	08/03/2012
Inspector	Michelle Bacon
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	30/11/2011
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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 provides accommodation for up to three young people of either sex between the ages of 10 to 17 years at any one time. It is operated by a private company.

Progress

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

At the full inspection in November 2011, the overall quality rating for the home was judged to be good with one requirement and four recommendations made to improve the quality of care. Since the last inspection, the manager has made improvements to the behaviour management procedures which has significantly reduced the numbers of sanctions and restraints. There is now a clear approach taken to promoting positive behaviours with the emphasis on rewards. This has had a positive impact on young people's behaviour.

At the last inspection, the manager was asked to notify HMCI of any significant events. To date there have been no new notifications. However, the manager has reviewed the system in place to ensure all relevant authorities will be notified. This ensures the welfare and safety of young people is protected.

A further recommendation to ensure the young people's guide contains the details of how a young person can contact their Independent Reviewing Officer or the Children's Rights Director, should they wish to raise a concern about their care has been addressed.

Young people continue to make good progress and work towards the goals identified in their plans. They benefit from the structured care and routines of the home. Young people enjoy good educational outcomes and maintain full attendance at school. They also enjoy a range of weekly activities outside of the home. This provides young people with the opportunity to mix with other young people of a similar age and develop friendships.

There have been improvements to the décor of the home, in particular all the damaged doors have now been replaced. The home is spacious and provides a homely environment. Young people are encouraged to personalise their bedrooms, which gives them a sense of belonging.

There are good monitoring systems in place and the manager promptly takes action where shortfalls arise; however, copies of the Regulation 34 reports have not been forwarded as good practice to Ofsted. The Registered Manager and staff are committed to improving outcomes for young people and providing good quality care.

Areas for improvement

Recommendations

To improve the quality and standards of care further the service should take account of the following recommendation(s):

- consider forwarding Regulation 34 reports every six months as good practice. (Children Act 1989 Guidance and Regulations Volume 5: Children's Homes paragraph 3.14)