

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	23/01/2012
Inspector	Martha Nethaway
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	21/06/2011
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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 accommodates up to five young people of either gender from 11 years to 17 years. This home is run by a private company.

Progress

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

At the last full inspection in June 2011 the overall quality rating for the home was judged as good. Action has been taken to address the one requirement and two recommendations set at the last inspection. The home's medication records are now robustly managed and young people's healthcare needs are being addressed in a timely manner. This promotes good outcomes for young people. Staff appraisals are taking place and are on target for completion.

The effectiveness of the management of the home is good. The company has succeeded in recruiting a manager for the home. The manager is now in the process of making an application to Ofsted to be registered. The staff team is working effectively with a clear passion to help improve the outcomes for young people. Young people's educational experience and achievement is improving. Similarly, sharper work is taking place to help increase young people's readiness for independence.

Young people are making good progress and are settled. Young people are being encouraged to develop further their independence and life skills as part of their plan for the future. Young people are developing competent skills in food management, house keeping, personal appearance and hygiene, and job-seeking skills. In some cases, young people have successfully gained employment during the school holiday periods. Staff are helping young people to develop greater skills with budgeting and money management. One young person commented, 'Since I moved here staff are helping me move forward in my life. I like the freedom that that the home offers but I have to act responsibly as well.'

Young people are broadly achieving in their education. Young people are attending school and are making steady progress. Where young people are not in school, they are encouraged to participate in a formal teaching programme, 'Skills for life'. Young people are making good progress in this area. Staff talk enthusiastically about how this programme is more practical and measurable in terms of helping young people to achieve more positive outcomes.

The home uses formal and informal consultation forums to engage views from young people, family, social workers and other significant stakeholders. These are broadly used to good effect. Young people's engagement is beginning to improve within their

monthly house meetings. Staff are exploring more innovative processes to help break down the barriers to participation.

The home has a development plan and is on target to address key areas in this plan. Improvements have taken place in managing young people's behaviours, with clearer strategies in place. Key worker sessions are being more closely monitored with clinical backup support from the company's assistant psychologist. Greater focus is taking place to promote the 'Skills for Life' educational curriculum. All of these areas are helping to improve young people's outcomes.

As a result of this inspection, there is one requirement, relating to the current manager making an application to Ofsted for registration.

Areas for improvement

Statutory Requirements

This section sets out the actions which must be taken so that the registered person/s meets the Care Standards Act 2000, Children's Homes Regulations 2001 and the National Minimum Standards. The registered person(s) must comply with the given timescales.

Reg.	Requirement	Due date
7 (2001)	ensure that the appointed individual to manage the children's home makes application to Ofsted. (Regulation 7(1))	29/02/2012

Recommendations

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