

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	09/01/2012
Inspector	Maureen Hamer
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	06/07/2011
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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 home is an independent residential home that meets the needs of up to six young people who have behavioural, emotional and social difficulties between the ages of nine to 17 years. It provides accommodation for young people who attend the local associated residential special school.

The home aims to provide a homely caring environment. Its focus is on providing young people with emotional and or behavioural difficulties with a stable environment in which positive behaviour is promoted. It aims to provide each young person the opportunity to develop their maximum potential through the delivery of an extended curriculum that is based on education and care.

There were six young people accommodated at the time of inspection.

Progress

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

At the last inspection the overall judgement for the service was satisfactory with five requirements and three recommendations for areas for improvement.

The home has maintained a satisfactory level of care and outcomes for young people. Young people said that they felt safe and liked living in the home. There have been several incidents of young people going missing. The home has protocols in place that demonstrate good working relationship with the local police and young people have been safely returned. Following an incident the police offer young people an opportunity to meet with an independent body to discuss the event. The meeting is also used to convey to the young person the risks associated with going missing with the aim of promoting the young person's safety.

All requirements from the last inspection have been met. The Statement of Purpose now includes details regarding the number, qualifications and experience of staff working in the home the statement has now been updated. Staff have received some additional training improving their ability to effectively support and promote positive outcomes for young people. The home's safeguarding policy has been updated and the manager has attended a safeguarding course this has a positive impact on young people's welfare.

Disciplinary measures have been reviewed so that they accord with legislation, are fair and promote young people's positive behaviour. Electronic devices are no longer in use inside the home providing young people with a more homely and private environment.

Actions that have been taken on recommendations include assessing and supporting young people to have time outside of the home on their own promoting the development of life skills such as safely crossing roads. Communication between staff has improved as they have been provided with more handover time to ensure consistency of care is provided to young people. However, staff are not receiving regular supervision reducing opportunities for one-to-one support to promote improvement in quality of care.

Young people, parents and placing authorities are not consulted as part of the regular quality assurance monitoring which is undertaken on a regular basis to a satisfactory level. Staff report that young people are exhibiting some negative behaviour relating to bullying and aggression between each other and between young people and staff. The manager is aware of this and actions such as placement meetings and risk assessments being updated have been put in place to improve these behaviours.

Some aspects of the home's communal environment is not homely with one window missing from the pane and some windows are not covered with curtains.

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
33 (2001)	visit and interview, with their consent and in private, such children accommodated there, their parents, relatives and person's living in the home as appears necessary in order to form an opinion of the standard of care provided in the home (Regulation 33 (4) (a))	30/03/2012
34 (2001)	establish and maintain a system for monitoring matters set out in Schedule 6 at appropriate intervals that provides for consultation with children accommodated in the home, their parents and placing authorities (Regulation 34 (3))	30/03/2012
27 (2001)	ensure that all staff employed at the home receive regular formal supervision and an annual appraisal. (Regulation 27 (4) (a))	24/02/2012

Recommendations

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

- provide a comfortable and homely environment that is well maintained and decorated. (NMS 10.3)