

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	08/02/2012
Inspector	Anne Bannister
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	09/08/2011
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Service information

Brief description of the service

This four-bedded children's home is one of three run by a limited company. It is registered for four females, with emotional and behavioural problems. Education is provided in a purpose-built school on one of the company's other sites.

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.

Progress

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

This home was judged as satisfactory at its full inspection in August 2011. It is judged to have made good progress at this interim inspection. One requirement and seven recommendations were made following this inspection. The management team has addressed all of the issues raised in the report. These actions ensure that good levels of care are maintained in the home. There has been a commitment to developing comprehensive quality monitoring of the service that the home provides by the company and the newly- appointed manager. The manager responds in a timely fashion to any issues raised in the company's own monitoring visits. This ensures the good quality of care is maintained or improved. Outcomes for young people have improved because of the continued improvement in the quality of care at the home.

A positive approach to staff development in the home has resulted in additional training being put in place. Regular supervision ensures staff have the opportunity to reflect on their practice. This ensures that young people are looked after by staff who are well trained and supported to do their jobs. The training programme ensures staff develop and maintain the skills necessary to support young

people's diverse needs. All staff either hold or are undertaking appropriate child care qualifications. The manager stimulates the enthusiasm of staff and channels their efforts effectively. It is a very child-focused service that is conducive to young people developing their potential.

Young people live in a safe, caring and supportive home environment that enables them to make good progress in all aspects of their lives. The use of physical intervention and sanctions to manage challenging behaviour has significantly decreased. Young people's positive behaviour is promoted. Staff and young people are clear about the disciplinary measures used in the home. From admission staff and young people look at positive ways of managing young people's challenging behaviours. Individual behaviour management plans confirm young people's preferred response to their challenging behaviours. These responses allow young people to take control of their behaviours and avoid the escalation of incidents. There has been a positive reduction in the number of times young people go missing from home and this reduces the risk of young people coming to harm. When sanctions are used staff and young people reflect on whether they have been effective in promoting positive changes in young people's behaviours.

Young people speak positively about their life in the home and their relationships with the staff team. They feel they are well supported to make positive choices about their futures. Staff maintain positive links with people and professionals who play an important part in young people's lives. They ensure they are consulted about all aspects of the care young people receive. In formal reviews young people are supported to voice their opinions about the plans for their future. When their wishes cannot be acted upon staff ensure they understand the reasons why and encourage young people to maintain positive relationships with professionals who are responsible for making key decisions about young people's future care.

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)*.