

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	05/12/2011
Inspector	Leonard Hird
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	05/05/2011
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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 children's home is provided by a private company and is registered to care for four young people whose primary need for being looked after arises from emotional or behavioural difficulties.

Progress

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

At the last full inspection on 5th May 2011, Ofsted made four requirements and three recommendations. The overall effectiveness of the home was judged as satisfactory. The purpose of this inspection was to assess if the registered persons have addressed the previous requirements and recommendations. All requirements and recommendations made at the last inspection have been addressed. Young people are benefiting from good levels of support and guidance given to them by the home's staff team.

A clear policy and procedure on behaviour and discipline is in place and is followed in practice. All information relating to disciplinary matters including sanctions and physical interventions involving young people are recorded in a timely and appropriate manner by the staff team. Records show that the number of sanctions has declined since the last inspection and that no physical restraints have occurred since June. Young people are benefiting from the supportive relationships that are occurring at the home.

There is a clear corporate policy on the recruitment of staff and the home maintains detailed records of all employees working at the home. The recruitment process is comprehensive and is ensuring that only suitable persons are employed at the home to work with young people. Young people's welfare is protected by the home's recruitment process.

Young people and staff meet on a regular basis to discuss what is happening in the home and records are kept of these meetings. The home operates an open door policy for young people to speak to any member of staff including the newly appointed Registered Manager. The company's designated officer is consulting with young people and wherever possible their families and significant others during their monthly unannounced monitoring visit to the home. A written record of the visit and its findings are provided to the company and Ofsted. The outcomes of the visit are shared with the Registered Manager to ensure that the quality of service is maintained and if necessary, improved for young people.

The home's Statement of Purpose is available for use by young people, their families and placing authorities. An individual young person's guide is readily available and

details what happens in the home on a day-to-day basis. Both of these documents contain information for young people on how they can contact different support organisations such as ChildLine, the Children's Rights Officer as well as their independent reviewing officer. The availability of this information in the home enables young people to contact external organisations for support, guidance or information, if required.

Members of staff receive satisfactory levels of support, training and supervision to maintain their professional development and monitor their performance. A copy of The National Minimum Standards for Children's Homes and the Children's Homes Regulations are available in the home's office for use by members of staff, young people or other interested parties. Members of staff are in the process of completing the appropriate training and qualifications to enable them to work with young people.

The staff team are working closely with young people to ensure they receive good levels of support and help to succeed. This involvement of staff is enabling young people to live in a homely environment that is supportive and caring.

Overall, no requirements or recommendations have been made from this inspection.