

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspector	Caroline Oldham
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Date of last inspection	17/08/2011
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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

The home is registered to provide care and accommodation for up to two young people aged between 12 years and 17-years-old who have emotional and behavioural difficulties. The home does not take emergency admissions.

Progress

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

This children's home opened in March 2011. At the last inspection in August 2011, the overall quality rating for the service was judged as good, with two recommendations set. The home continues to develop and improve the quality of care provided, through an enthusiastic management team and a strong staff group. The home is focussed on making a difference and promoting good outcomes for the young people in their care.

There were two recommendations set at the last inspection. The recommendation regarding preparing young people for independence has been met well with the introduction of a detailed programme of skills, and a simple, but effective, system to monitor progress and give support where required. Young people say that they enjoy the additional responsibilities and that staff help them where necessary. The second recommendation has been repeated, as although the home has purchased additional activities which the young people enjoy, there is a lack of structure to their day. The young people are currently awaiting school and work experience placements, and interim activities are not yet established to ensure that they develop their skills through the environment created by the home.

Young people continue to receive well planned care provided by a committed and competent staff team. Plans are well defined and highlight further improvements to the monitoring systems to review the quality of care to ensure young people continue to make good progress. Young people hold very positive views of the care that they receive, and they say that their relationships with staff are good. Young people confirm that they feel safe, and that they are able to talk to any staff member if they have worries. They particularly like the key work team arrangements, and the small group living environment. They now manage their own meetings, are actively involved in staff recruitment, and the council's forum for children in care. The culture and practice within the home promotes individual identity, difference and equality. As a result, young people receive high quality care and support, which is based on their individual identified needs.

Since the last inspection, work has been undertaken to review the Statement of Purpose and the Children's Guide. Questionnaires have recently been produced for young people and parents to enable the home to get feedback to improve the

service. The staff team continue to grow and develop through a good training programme, and this is monitored through an appraisal system. Key team meetings have recently been introduced, to enable all members of the team to develop their skills and provide a variety of opportunities for staff development. There is a cross-fertilization of ideas through some movement of staff across other children's home provision in a planned way. For example, there is now strong planning with regard to independence programmes. The staff supervision system is not securely embedded in the rota system, which means that sometimes the needs of young people prevent staff supervision taking place on a regular basis. The regular reports of monitoring visits have recently been reviewed, and cover all the required areas; they demonstrate an excellent level of consultation with staff and young people.

Areas for improvement

Recommendations

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

- ensure that staff are provided with regular supervision (NMS 19.5)
- ensure that children develop their emotional, intellectual, social, creative and physical skills through the accessible and stimulating environment created by the home. (NMS 7.1)