

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	20/12/2011
Inspector	Bill Drumm
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	03/05/2011
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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

The children's home provides short-break care for up to six young people of either sex aged from eight years to 17 years of age with physical or learning disabilities. The local authority owns and operates this setting.

Progress

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

At the last inspection in May 2011, the overall effectiveness rating for the home was judged to be outstanding.

The home has made good progress since the last inspection. Developments and improvements made ensure that young people are well cared for and kept safe. Young people spent time with the inspector. They appear settled and happy at the home.

Two recommendations were made at the last inspection and all of the matters have been addressed.

One recommendation was that the Registered Manager would ensure that all consent forms from parents are signed and up to date. The consent forms ensure that young people can receive appropriate health care when they require it and are able to participate fully in a range of activities. This helps them to stay fit, well and healthy.

The home's manager has also reviewed the home's young people's guide and complaints documentation. Complaints documentation has been produced using symbols and pictures to aid understanding. In addition, the young people's guide has been reviewed. The young people's guide contains the contact arrangements for their individual, independent reviewing officers and those of the Children's Rights Director. This means that, young people with communication difficulties can make a complaint if they are unhappy about anything. Young people can also contact independent agencies to discuss any concerns they may have.

In addition to the above, the home is making further improvements that enhance the quality of care provided to young people. The home's manager has liaised with her colleagues in education to develop a comprehensive transition process for those young people nearing adulthood. This means that the needs of young people are assessed prior to them leaving the home and appropriate services provided to help them move successfully into adulthood.

The home's manager has also reviewed the staffing rotas. Assistant managers are now able to undertake extra duties in the office. This helps them to understand more

fully the role of a home's manager and to develop their confidence and skills in management.

A full refurbishment of the home is also planned, to ensure that the home remains attractive, warm and comfortable.