

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC033457
Inspection date	11/01/2012
Inspector	Malcolm Stannard
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Secure Unit

Date of last inspection	05/07/2011
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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

The centre is registered as a secure children's home, operated by a local authority and is approved by the Secretary of State to provide secure care and accommodation. Education is provided on site in a separate purpose-built building. The centre is registered to accommodate up to 27 young people in one of the three living units available; 26 young people were resident at the time of inspection.

Facilities available for young people's use include an artificial surface sports pitch, a sports hall, gym, garden areas and a courtyard containing a tennis court.

Progress

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

At the last inspection in July 2011 the overall effectiveness of the centre was judged to be good. At that inspection the centre was asked to improve the medication records and ensure young people know how to contact their independent reviewing officer and the Children's Rights Director. Also the centre was asked to make improvements to the provision of formal education and the progress it has made in this area will be reviewed at the next inspection of the education provision.

Managers and staff have maintained the quality of care available for young people since the last inspection. Some development of the provision has occurred with a service level agreement now in place with a local health authority to provide mental health support to young people and guidance to staff. This support will commence in February 2012. Following consultation with the young people the number of sittings at mealtimes has been increased. Young people report that as a result of this the dining room is quieter and they feel safer within the environment. Good use is being made of an unoccupied unit at the centre to provide an area for learning life skills, including being able to make refreshments when receiving visits from family members.

The centre management had been asked to ensure that full details of any known allergies a young person may have were recorded on health and risk assessment documentation. This information is now recorded fully on each young person's health care plan, health occurrence sheet and individual risk management plans. This ensures that the recording system is sufficiently robust to ensure all information is available to all staff who work with the young person, helping to protect their welfare.

It was previously recommended that the young person's guide to the centre included details of how they could contact their independent reviewing officer and the

Children's Rights Director. The information given to young people now contains full guidance as to how all relevant professionals and advocates can be contacted. This ensures that young people are made aware of how they can get in touch with a person who is independent of the centre should they wish to do so.