

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC040500
Inspection date	24/01/2012
Inspector	Malcolm Stannard
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Secure Unit

Date of last inspection	19/07/2011
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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 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 within a school area equipped with purpose-built classrooms. The centre is registered to provide care and accommodation for up to 20 young people.

Facilities available for young people's use include a sports hall, fitness suite, music studio, vocational skills zone and outdoor play areas.

Progress

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

At the last inspection in July 2011, the overall effectiveness of the centre was judged to be outstanding. At that inspection the centre management was asked to ensure that information on young people's risk assessments was transferred to behaviour management plans. Also the centre was asked to make improvements relating to formal education. The progress it has made in this area will be reviewed at the next inspection of the education provision.

Managers and staff have demonstrated continuous improvement in the quality of care and outcomes for young people since the last inspection. Development has occurred in relation to the introduction of mobility coordinators, which helps to ensure young people receive the appropriate opportunities for re-integration into the community. Following consultation with young people, amendments have been made to the rewards and sanctions scheme for those who have attained the higher levels. This enables young people to take increased responsibility for their actions and improve behaviour.

Additionally, the centre has continued to recognise the importance of staff personal development and provided opportunities to enhance their skills and practice, including accreditation in learning delivery for young people. Learning delivery is training that gives staff the skills to assist and support young people in formal learning. Staff are therefore provided with the knowledge and understanding to carry out work with young people competently.

The centre management had been asked to ensure that outcomes of risk assessments, specifically those which related to a young person's health, were recorded within behaviour management plans. Improvements to the recording had been instigated immediately following the last inspection. However, further development has taken place, including the capability of all staff to access and continually update plans as well as a structured three weekly review period. This

demonstrates the centre's capability for continued improvement and helps to ensure that staff are fully aware of young people's needs and the strategies in place to meet these.