

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	24/01/2012
Inspector	Gwen Buckley
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Secure Unit

Date of last inspection	07/07/2011
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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

This secure unit is managed by a county council. It provides secure accommodation for up to five young people and education is provided on site.

Progress

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

At the last inspection that was carried out in July 2011, one statutory requirement and one recommendation were made. The overall effectiveness judgement made at the inspection was good. The standard of care provided remains high and good progress has been made to address the recommendation and requirement. Family members are regularly consulted on the quality of care and service provided. As a result of this consultation, young people have individually tailored programmes with support from staff that helps them develop a good understanding of the importance of a healthy lifestyle, including good nutrition and exercise. The cultural identity of young people is clearly recorded and highly individualised work is undertaken helping young people understand their backgrounds, raising their self-esteem and awareness of their family history and culture.

The management team is committed to continually improving practice and services to young people. Developments since the last inspection include links with an educational resource specialising in working with young visitors from overseas. Visits to each other's homes provide opportunities to meet people from around the world and further develop young people's understanding of diversity.

Details of every physical restraint are now sent to the Local Safeguarding Children Board, which ensures a transparency of practice in safeguarding young people. Action is promptly taken on any findings to improve practice. Copies of Regulation 34 reports are sent to Ofsted.

Training provided for care and education staff helps young people access and achieve on the Award Scheme Development and Accreditation Network (ASDAN) courses. ASDAN courses provide access for young people to a wider range of courses that takes account of individual ability. Recently developed links with a local school provide opportunities to experience new activities, such as use of disc jockey equipment and access to a gym for young people who are risk assessed as safe to go out on visits into the local community.

Training on restorative justice principles helps young people understand how it is used in the community by police. It also helps them recognise the impact and consequences of their own actions. Young people have developed their own colourful child-friendly guide to the home and an audio guide is also available. Young people

report exceptionally good relationships with staff, feel they are listened to and have a say on what happens to them. Young people feel safe in the home and can count on the support of all the staff team especially their key-worker. Young people say, 'Staff really care; they do not give up on you, even when you push them away and swear at them or worse, they come back and show they care. They know young people very well and are wonderful'.