

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC033502
Inspection date	08/02/2012
Inspector	David Martin
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	13/07/2011
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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 children's home is run by a local authority and accommodates up to seven children aged from 12 to 17 years. It provides long term placements for children with emotional and behavioural difficulties.

Progress

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

The last full inspection of this service was undertaken in July 2011. Its overall effectiveness was judged to be good and it achieved good ratings in all outcome areas. No recommendations or requirements were made.

The home continues to strive for improvements in the quality of service it provides. It makes good use of Regulation 33 reports which offer a robust analysis of activity within the home and identify areas for development. The manager has drawn up a service improvement plan for the forthcoming year. It evaluates the home's current position and sets out realistic and achievable targets for the whole staff team. This approach ensures that the home remains clearly focussed on achieving positive outcomes for young people.

Some young people present difficult and challenging behaviour at times and are involved in risk taking and potentially harmful behaviour. Nonetheless, the staff manage this skilfully, ensuring that any incidents are dealt with positively. The staff have developed an excellent understanding of attachment theory and are able to effectively apply its key principles in individual care planning. Physical intervention is used only on rare occasions and there is limited use of sanctions. The staff are very supportive of each other in setting consistent boundaries for young people. This practice encourages young people to reflect on their behaviour and strongly promotes self control.

The young people's education is a priority for the home. It has successfully engaged all young people in school or college placements and attendance levels are very good. The staff have excellent working relationships with educational colleagues and have been supported well by some of the young people's social workers. Where appropriate, the home has been active in seeking a statement of special educational need for individual young people. The young people benefit from the home's positive attitude to the value of learning.

Overall, the service continues to operate in the best interests of young people and provides them with strong foundations for personal growth and development. No recommendations or requirements are made as a result of this inspection.