

## Inspection report for children's home

---

<b>Unique reference number</b>	SC033587
<b>Inspection date</b>	16/02/2012
<b>Inspector</b>	Valerie Shephard
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Interim
<b>Provision subtype</b>	Children's home

---

<b>Date of last inspection</b>	05/10/2011
--------------------------------	------------

---

© Crown copyright 2012

Website: [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)

This document may be reproduced in whole or in part for non-commercial educational purposes, provided that the information quoted is reproduced without adaptation and the source and date of publication are stated.

## Service information

### Brief description of the service

The children's home is run by a local authority. It is registered to accommodate up to six young people. The home provides long-term residential care to young people with emotional and behavioural difficulties.

### The inspection judgements and what they mean

<b>Good progress</b>	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.
<b>Satisfactory progress</b>	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.
<b>Inadequate progress</b>	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.

## Progress

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

This interim inspection has focused on the progress made by the home since the previous full inspection in October 2011 when the overall judgement was good. The home has made good progress in all areas which improves the quality of care and outcomes for young people.

The requirements from the previous inspection related to: addressing the imposition of financial penalties to young people; evidencing that staff qualifications are checked; ensuring young people's records include information relating to their heritage; and the availability of fire equipment. Recommendations related to appropriate recording when a child goes missing from home and recording the time and length of supervision sessions. The manager has dealt with all the requirements and recommendations made at the last inspection.

The home has a behaviour management policy which clearly outlines how staff should manage young people's behaviour in the home. Sanctions include withdrawal of activities or privileges, and reparation for damage where appropriate. The aim of these measures is to help young people learn how to relate to others in the home

and behave appropriately.

Better recording on young people's files is in evidence. Missing from home records include fuller information about the circumstances when young people return, their comments and the outcome. The manager has devised a form for use with the matching of new referrals to the home. This form assists staff to consider whether they can meet the needs of young people alongside those of existing residents. Information collated includes the emotional and behavioural needs of young people as well as their culture, religion and language. Where the home cannot meet a young person's needs, the manager is proactive in addressing this with the appropriate local authority.

Outcomes for young people in the home are very good. Young people enjoy sports, such as swimming, football and fishing. One young person commented that he 'liked sport and was hoping to join the school football team.' Staff support school attendance and overall attendance is good. Where young people are not in full-time education, staff are proactive in supporting transitional arrangements. Young people who have recently left the home are either living successfully independently or have returned to their families. Those living independently are attending college and some have part-time jobs. The home has recently received a 'thank you' letter from a young person who has moved successfully to independence.

Staffing levels are sufficient to meet the needs of the young people, and these are in accordance with the Statement of Purpose. While the home is currently carrying a vacancy, appropriate contingency plans are in place. The home employs a small, consistent team of agency workers who the young people know well, which provides continuity of care.

The staff team is appropriately qualified. All staff either hold the National Vocational Qualification at level 3 in Caring for Children and Young People, or have almost completed this. There is now a clear system to ensure that there is verification of staff qualifications at the recruitment stage. Staff comment that training is a high priority in the home. The manager encourages staff to attend appropriate courses, for example in attachment awareness and therapeutic techniques. This training assists staff to meet young people's emotional and behavioural needs.

There are good fire safety precautions in the home. As a result of damage and misuse of fire extinguishers, the manager has taken advice from the fire service. Staff are following recommendations made regarding the safe keeping of equipment and young people continue to be safeguarded in this respect.

The manager provides good leadership and is effective overall in his management of the home. Staff report that they feel well supported to care effectively for young people. Supervision sessions take place regularly and more robust systems are in place for recording the time and duration of supervision sessions with staff. The manager ensures that the home fulfils its obligations as outlined in the Statement of Purpose. Regulation 33 visits effectively and continually monitor young people's progress, and there are regular reviews of the quality of care to young people under

the Regulation 34 requirements. These measures assist the manager to provide good-quality leadership to staff which is of benefit to the care of young people. One shortfall relates to summary reports made under Regulation 34, which are not sent to Ofsted at regular intervals, as required.

The home is clean and tidy and provides sufficient space for the young people in the home. However, a programme of maintenance and redecoration is required to improve the appearance of the living areas. This will create a comfortable and homely environment for young people, which will assist in promoting their development.

## Areas for improvement

### Statutory Requirements

This section sets out the actions which must be taken so that the registered person/s meets the Care Standards Act 2000, Children's Homes Regulations 2001 and the National Minimum Standards. The registered person(s) must comply with the given timescales.

Reg.	Requirement	Due date
34 (2001)	supply to the HMCI a report in respect of any review conducted by him. (Regulation 34(2))	16/03/2012

### Recommendations

To improve the quality and standards of care further the service should take account of the following recommendation(s):

- ensure the home provides a comfortable and homely environment and is well maintained and decorated. (NMS 10.3)

## 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)*.