

Inspection report for children's home

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| Inspection date | 22/03/2012 |
| Inspector | Angela Whiteley |
| Type of inspection | Interim |
| Provision subtype | Children's home |

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| Date of last inspection | 21/10/2011 |
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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

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| 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 children's home is run by a local authority. It is registered to accommodate up to six young people of either gender. The home provides care and accommodation to young people with emotional or behavioural difficulties on a long-term basis.

Progress

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

At the last full inspection, the overall judgement for this home was good. Outcomes for young people have improved because of the continued improvement in the quality of care at the home.

Two requirements and three recommendations were made at the last inspection. The home has made good progress in meeting these. Young people's educational achievement and access to education facilities has been a particular focus, as some young people are refusing to access main stream provision. The home is providing alternative education packages with the support of external providers who contribute to specific sessions. An external moderator will assess the work to enable young people to achieve educational awards which are celebrated by the home. Staff continue to support and encourage young people to resume full time education and work individually with them on issues that are preventing this happening. Staff maintain regular contact with schools and colleges, other organisations and the placing authority to support young people's education. Staff are to receive additional training in respect of the educational packages they are delivering to increase their confidence and knowledge to enable young people to maximise their achievements and engage fully in a positive learning environment. Young people's records have been updated in respect of contact details for schools and colleges.

Young people's views are consistently gathered and these influence the home's operation and future direction. Young people have a weekly key worker session which helps to develop positive relationships with staff. Monthly summary reports are written to share with other professionals. Young people can display challenging behaviours where sanctions and physical interventions are necessary. An appropriate recording system is now in place which takes account of young people's wishes to be examined by a nurse or medical practitioner. However, young people have not been encouraged to have their views recorded or to sign the entry in the log book. Young people respond positively to the incentives in place and are accepting of agreed sanctions where necessary. Young people chair their residents' meetings, which gives them responsibilities and ownership of their meetings. A respectful and nurturing approach from staff has received positive responses from young people who say they like living in this home and feel safe. Young people have learnt to accept and value difference through the promotion of equality and diversity that has helped them build

a more positive self-image.

The stable and highly experienced staff team are qualified to meet the care needs of the young people. Ensuring the staff receive appropriate training to develop their knowledge and skills is given priority at this home. This ensures they can continue to meet the emerging needs of young people placed. New staff are to join the team shortly to further strengthen the existing staff team. Staff receive excellent support from seniors and managers and receive regular supervision which is recorded appropriately in their file.

Most young people are making progress relative to the time they have lived at the home. As a result, most young people are achieving positive outcomes in some aspects of their lives including emotional resilience, education, health, family contacts and behaviour management. There is good support from specialist workers, which offers a consistent approach to the care planning for young people. The stability of the placements and the progress young people are making is assisting them to develop their independence skills preparing them for future independent living.

Young people live in a generally homely, warm, welcoming and safe environment. However, parts of the home look worn, untidy and tired and are in need of some repairs and redecoration.. Wallpaper and paint work is damaged in the entrance hall, staircase, landing and young people's bedrooms. The shower room has mould on the shower tray and paint is peeling from the ceiling. Old internal fire doors are no longer fit for purpose. Good maintenance and decoration helps young people to respect their home and feel valued and well cared for.

The home's aims and objectives are being fulfilled. There are quality assurance systems in place to monitor the operation and management of the home; however, Regulation 34 reports have not yet been forwarded to Ofsted as required by The Children's Home Regulations 2001. The manager regularly reviews the quality of care and development plan to ensure shortfalls are identified and suitable actions taken to address them. These measures ensure the standards within the home remain high and continue to improve.

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 |
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| 34 (2001) | establish and maintain a system for monitoring the matters set out in Schedule 6 at appropriate intervals; in particular, the system shall provide for consultation with children accommodated in the home, their parents and placing | 26/04/2012 |

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| | authorities and shall help to improve the quality of care provided (Regulation 34 (1) (a) (b) (2) (3)) | |
| 31 (2001) | ensure that all parts of the children's home used by children are kept clean and reasonably decorated and maintained. This is in relation to young people's bedrooms, the entrance hall, stairs and landing, the shower room and fire doors that are no longer fit for purpose (Regulation 31 (e)) | 10/05/2012 |

Recommendations

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

- ensure where any sanctions, disciplinary measures or restraint are used, children are encouraged to have their views recorded in the records kept by the home. (NMS 3.18)