

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	11/09/2012
Inspector	Russell Shackford
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	28/05/2012
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Service information

Brief description of the service

This children's home is operated by a private company. It provides three long-term placements for young people who have emotional and behavioural difficulties.

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.

Progress

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

This home was judged as inadequate at the full inspection and is judged to have made satisfactory progress at this interim inspection. The home has improved quality of care and outcomes for children and has addressed the requirements made at the previous inspection. At the last inspection, requirements were raised around placement planning, the promotion of education, health promotion, medication, staff training and the monitoring of the quality of care at the home.

Placement referral systems have been revised and amended to help ensure that there is full and accurate information available to the decision makers. A placement profile which identifies the most appropriate match for the existing group of young people has been introduced. This includes an impact assessment relating to the home, the local community and education needs. Existing young people's beneficial views have been sought and recorded which contribute to the manager's evaluation and decision-making. The effectiveness of the revisions have not been tested yet as there are no vacancies at the home and therefore no new referrals have been made.

The promotion of education has improved in several key areas. The manager and

staff have met with education providers to agree protocols and strategies for supporting young people to engage in education and to clarify staff roles and responsibilities in achieving this. Education action plans are on file for all young people together with targets and education review reports. Home and school contact is more frequent and purposeful. As a result, one young person has been supported to attend a summer school project in preparation for attending a college course. The effectiveness of the staff involvement and support resulted in the young person being offered further weekend education sessions.

The practice of purchasing cigarettes for young people at the home has ceased. All parties concerned in the initial agreement have been notified of the decision and care planning has been revised to ensure that young people's health is promoted and protected. There have been no incidences of young people engaging in risk-taking behaviour as a result of this action. All medicines at the home are securely stored and a robust stock checking system is in place. The manager monitors this regularly. This helps to ensure that young people's welfare and safety is protected.

All staff have begun a developmental training package designed to enhance their knowledge of autism and attention disorders. This has included input from a therapist and a facilitator leading sessions around the national training framework on autistic spectrum disorders. Further training is planned to help ensure that all staff are competent to meet young people's diverse needs.

There is effective monitoring of the quality of care for the young people in the home. A consistent person has been identified to undertake the external quality assurance monitoring visit. This includes consultation with children, parents and other agency staff. Senior managers have oversight of the resulting reports to help ensure quality of monitoring, reporting and action taken. The manager monitors reports upon and evaluates the effectiveness of the administration systems of the home, ensuring what staff record they record well. These, and other findings around the quality of care at the home, are more fully recorded and evaluated in the service development plan. Any areas of weakness identified are promptly acted upon. These effective evaluations help to ensure the standards within the home continue to improve.

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)*.