

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	13/12/2012
Inspector	Anna Williams
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	19/07/2012
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Service information

Brief description of the service

The service is a four-bedded children's home registered for single sex occupancy and young people with emotional and behavioural difficulties.

The home is owned and operated by a private organisation that specialises in the assessment and treatment of male adolescents who have experienced some form of abuse and have subsequently been involved in perpetrating abusive behaviour themselves.

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 **good progress**.

At the last full inspection this home was judged to be adequate. The home demonstrates a continued improvement in the quality of care given to young people. All the requirements and recommendations from the last inspection have been fully met. There are no requirements or recommendations raised as part of this inspection.

Young people are positive about the care they receive in the home. Comments from young people include, 'I love it here, it's really good', and, 'I feel safe here and listened to.' Positively, there have been no complaints since the last inspection.

The Statement of Purpose has been revised and now describes in full the therapeutic approach and therapeutic techniques which are used within the home. This ensures that placing authorities understand how the preferred therapeutic approach supports

young people to achieve objectives set out in individual care plans. There has only been one notification since the last inspection, which is appropriately documented. This ensures an adequate record is now kept of actions taken following any significant event.

Regulation 34 reports now contain more evaluation on the quality of care within the home. Feedback from placing authorities has now been formally sought and is positive. Young people's feedback is sought through weekly home meetings. Minutes demonstrate that young people are positive about the home and influence its running appropriately. This structured self-evaluation system and revised Regulation 34 report demonstrate a more robust approach to seek and learn from feedback in order to improve the service for young people.

Risk assessments have been reviewed and are more individualised. They now contain clearer action points for staff to follow. This promotes a personalised approach to young people's safety.

Since the last inspection, all staff have attended breakaway training techniques to support the behaviour management of young people. This ensures that staff are equipped with the key skills to safely care for young people who show behaviours that can be physically challenging at times.

'Art time' has been introduced as a non-directive activity for young people to access art at the weekends. Young people say they enjoy the free expression they undertake during these art sessions. This promotes young people's talents and offers a positive additional activity choice for young people during their free time.

The home has benefited from redecoration and new carpets within the lounge and bedroom areas. This maintenance is currently on-going to refresh and renovate further areas of the home, including the main bathroom. This provides young people with a well-maintained and homely environment to live in.

Progress towards the annual development plan is good. One aim is to implement a new core group system around each young person. This has recently been introduced. This brings together the young person, residential, education and therapy staff in three-weekly meetings. Although the core group system has only been in place a short period, the impact of a structured joined-up approach is already positively evidenced in addressing a health outcome identified through the core group.

Recently, all the young people went on a successful holiday with staff. Comments from young people include, 'I had a brilliant time and I really liked going on all the theme park rides', and, 'we had a great time together, it was really awesome.' This supports young people's personal and social development.

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*.