

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	13/10/2011
Inspector	Stephen Trainor
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	08/06/2011
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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

A private organisation operates this children's home. This service is registered for up to six young people aged between 11 and 17 years of age. The home cares for males with emotional and behavioural difficulties. This home is also registered as a school. In-house arrangements support local education authority provision.

Progress

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

At the last full inspection the home was judged as outstanding. The children's home has demonstrated continued improvement in the quality of care and outcomes for children and young people. All the young people benefit from consistent practice that allows all aspects of their lives to improve.

Young people work closely with staff and hard work has created a vibrant home where young people like to be. The young people's views are consistently gathered and these influence the home's operation and future direction. There is good feedback and consultation with partners who confirm the 'excellent ethos' at the home supports young people to achieve and develop. Relationships are excellent with individual differences being accepted and valued by all living and working at the home. Young people's characters prosper and all confirm that they are happy, safe and relaxed living in their home.

Good outcomes are being achieved and all the young people continue to receive a high standard of care from an experienced, competent and qualified staff team. Managers stimulate the enthusiasm of staff and channel their efforts effectively. It is a strong, child-focused service that is conducive to young people developing their potential. Staff remain fully up to date with professional and legal developments.

Placements are stable and young people take responsibility for their behaviour. There are no behaviour management concerns. The promotion of young people's education, health and well-being are excellent. Young people's educational attainments are tremendous. All the young people actively engage with their education programmes and attendance is excellent. Young people's achievements improve self confidence and future prospects. Young people reflect on their progress with their key worker and this keeps them highly motivated.

Young people are prepared very well for the time when they leave and transition planning has been effective to enable sustained engagement in education. A key strength of this service continues to be the creative ways that recreational interests and holidays are being linked to education. Some good thematic approaches are

taken to support learning. The young people will benefit from the appointment of a new teaching assistant who will further enhance learning experiences.

The home's aims and objectives are being fulfilled. There are good quality assurance systems being used to monitor the operation, management, young peoples welfare and the home's records. Realistic and challenging targets are outlined within the home's development plan. Excellent monitoring systems are used that comply with the requirements of Regulation 33 and 34. Planning for the future is founded on robust evidence which identifies areas of weakness and builds on the many areas of strength that this service consistently demonstrates.

Areas for improvement