# Child, Youth and Family Residential Care Regulations Inspection Report: 2012

## Te Poutama Arahi Rangatahi Residence

### Te Poutama Ārahi Rangatahi is a specialist residential treatment facility located in Christchurch. The service, which is managed by Barnardos under contract from Child, Youth and Family, provides residential treatment for young men aged from 12–17 years who have engaged in harmful sexual behaviour and who can no longer be safely treated within their own communities. Te Poutama Ārahi Rangatahi provides a safe, secure and therapeutic environment to assist young men to engage in their individualised treatment programmes in a positive and responsive way. Community-based treatment providers and clinical staff also work alongside families prior to, during and throughout the reintegration phase of young people’s treatment. The Ministry of Education provides an on-site school which all young people attend on a daily basis and external activities and educational and vocational opportunities are also provided, based on each young person’s individualised education plan. Treatment, which ranges from nine months to two years, is provided to young people until they are deemed ready and able to be reintegrated safely back into the community.

### Inspection Reports

The eight residences run by Child, Youth and Family and Te Poutama Ārahi Rangatahi are assessed every calendar year by the Office of the Chief Social Worker to ensure:

* compliance with the regulations as specified in the Children, Young Persons, and Their Families (Residential Care) Regulations 1996 (the Regulations)
* compliance with section 384 of the Children, Young Persons, and Their Families Act 1989
* the provision of safe, appropriate care for children and young people.

A report is produced, summarising the findings of the inspection, that focuses on any non-compliance identified, and residences are required to develop a response to the report that addresses these areas for improvement.

## Inspection summary as at November 2012

### Scope

The residential care regulations are about the safety and wellbeing, and upholding of the rights of, children and young people placed in a Child, Youth and Family residence. They also outline expectations about management and inspection of the residences.

Each inspection covers the six parts of the regulations, namely:

* Part 1: Rights of children and young persons in residences
* Part 2: Limitations on powers of punishment and discipline
* Part 3: Management and inspection of residences
* Part 4: Searches
* Part 5: Secure care
* Part 6: Records.

In 2012 Te Poutama Ārahi Rangatahi achieved a 94.78 percent rate of compliance across the six parts of the regulations, for those provisions tested on the inspection.

### Overall

* Not all provisions of the residential care regulations and section 384 of the Children, Young Persons, and Their Families Act 1989 apply to every residence, on every occasion.
* Due to the nature of some regulations, non-compliance in one area can mean automatic non-compliance with other regulations as they are inherently linked.
* The inspection identified areas of strength as well as areas for improvement for Te Poutama Ārahi Rangatahi.
* An improvement plan was developed to address the identified areas of improvement and the result of this plan is outlined below.

### Areas of strength

Areas where the inspection found evidence of good practices and processes that were promoting the wellbeing and safety of children and young people included:

* initial reports and assessments being completed prior to a child or young person’s admission to the residence
* at the point of admission, plans were developed which detailed how staff would work and engage with children and young people
* renewed focus on supporting young people to fully engage with their education
* staff induction programme
* detailed recording of events and activities
* staff supervision.

### Areas for improvement

Areas where improvement was required included:

* ensuring care plans addressed all issues that were relevant to a child or young person, including services and programmes to be provided and details about contact with family and whānau
* ensuring young people were still able to access their full educational entitlement while also receiving the appropriate therapeutic interventions
* improving the medication administration and recording systems
* the management of children and young people’s challenging behaviour, in particular:
  + ensuring only approved punishments and sanctions were applied in the management of this behaviour
  + the need for clear guidelines surrounding the use of the intensive support area
  + maintaining an environment in which all children and young people at all times felt safe and secure
* provision of on-site health services
* ensuring that staff understood the regulations, and strengthening the compliance monitoring process
* opportunities to enhance the admissions pack and children and young people’s personal files
* refreshing the physical environment.

### Service delivery response

In response to the identified areas for improvement, Barnardos has implemented the following actions:

* implemented a system which monitors all care plans monthly to ensure young people’s care plans integrate all aspects of their needs
* undertaken a review of programmes and activities and introduced an increased range of health, cultural and outdoor activities
* reviewed the admission procedures and developed a new admission pack for young people
* introduced a range of different intervention approaches to managing young people’s behaviour, including restructuring and resourcing the residence to allow reconfiguration of the young people and staffing groups
* continued ongoing negotiations with the District Health Board to ensure young people receive appropriate health support, and implemented weekly auditing of compliance with medication protocols
* implemented a system which monitors personal files to ensure they contain all relevant details
* a comprehensive induction package developed for all new staff, which includes ongoing regulations training
* commenced work to refresh the physical environment, with a specific focus on the replacement of damaged furniture and ensuring furniture meets the required specifications
* enhanced monitoring by the residence of the number of hours spent on classroom work by each young person
* held ongoing discussions regarding use of the therapy area as an intensive support area, due to the residence’s limited access to an off-site secure care facility.