

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC000820
Inspection date	23 September 2009
Inspector	Mick Earl
Type of Inspection	Random

Date of last inspection	17 March 2009
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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.

This report details the main strengths and any areas for improvement identified during the inspection. The judgements included in the report are made in relation to the outcome for children set out in the Children Act 2004 and relevant National Minimum Standards for the establishment.

The inspection judgements and what they mean

Outstanding:	this aspect of the provision is of exceptionally high quality
Good:	this aspect of the provision is strong
Satisfactory:	this aspect of the provision is sound
Inadequate:	this aspect of the provision is not good enough

Service information

Brief description of the service

Care and accommodation is provided at the home for up to five young people aged eight to 17 years. The home is a detached house with an enclosed rear courtyard. The house has two floors. The ground floor comprises of a kitchen, dining room, lounge and quiet room. A toilet is also situated on the ground floor. Included on the ground floor is a separate self contained flat. The flat has its own kitchen, lounge, bedroom with en-suite shower and toilet. Upstairs each young person has their own single bedroom with en-suite shower and toilet facilities, a family size bathroom is also situated on this floor. Office space and sleep-in accommodation is provided for members of staff. The home is close to local shops and a library. Bus routes are nearby if young people wish to visit the town centre with its larger shops, cinema and leisure facilities.

Summary

The purpose of the visit to the home was an unannounced inspection to inspect some of the key national minimum standards (NMS). This assesses the progress the home has made with any statutory requirements and recommendations made at the last inspection.

National minimum standards were sampled in the Staying Safe outcome area and identified that the home has good strengths. These are in supporting privacy and confidentiality, providing individual support, providing a physically safe home, providing consistent staffing, providing a clear complaints system and staff recruitment.

The one area for improvement on this occasion is in continuing to request the Looked After Children's documentation from placing authorities.

The overall quality rating is good.

This is an overview of what the inspector found during the inspection.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the home was asked to make improvements in fire safety, recording measures of control and the provision of formal supervision to staff. These actions have been met. The home was also asked to ensure that all Looked After Children documentation for each young person is available to the home. There is clear evidence that the home has asked three placing authorities for this information on several occasions and they have still not provided the information, therefore the action has not been fully met.

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is not judged.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The young people are cared for safely.

The staff in the home respect the young people's privacy. Young people have their own bedrooms and staff and young people confirm that staff always knock on their doors before entering. Young people have access to a private phone so they can contact people outside the

home when they want to. There is a clear complaints system in place. Young people are supported and encouraged to contact the owner to give their views on how the home is run. Young people are given information about making a complaint when they arrive at the home and they know who to talk to if they are not happy. This helps to protect young people and ensure oversight by independent people.

Staff are trained in child protection procedures and know how to respond to any issues to do with bullying.

The home has a copy of the Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures and these are available to staff who are knowledgeable about them. There are procedures in place to respond appropriately if any young person fails to return to the home on time and when this happens these are well recorded. This helps to protect their welfare and promotes their safe return.

The behaviour of young people is managed well. Members of staff have received training in the safe restraint and holding of young people. The records contain all of the correct information and the quality of the recording has improved since the last inspection.

The records show that tests of the fire alarm system are carried out at the right times and fire drills for staff and young people takes place regularly. This ensures that young people and staff are kept safe from the risk of fire.

Health and safety matters are managed well and all records of maintenance and building risk assessments are up-to-date, helping to keep young people safe.

The home has good recruitment and selection processes. Safety checks are carried out to ensure the suitability of each applicant. Each member of staff provides references from previous employers or those that know them well. New members of staff follow an induction programme and attend mandatory training. This is safe practice.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is not judged.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is not judged.

Achieving economic wellbeing

The provision is not judged.

Organisation

The organisation is not judged.

What must be done to secure future improvement?

Statutory requirements

This section sets out the actions, which must be taken so that the registered person meets the Care Standards Act 2000, The Childrens Homes Regulations 2001 and the National Minimum Standards. The Registered Provider must comply with the given timescales.

Standard	Action	Due date
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Recommendations

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

- ensure that there is up to date Looked After Children documentation, including a Care Plan and Placement Plan, in place for each young person accommodated at the home (NMS 2).