

## Inspection report for Children's Home

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| <b>Unique reference number</b> | SC000820   |
| <b>Inspection date</b>         | 29/12/2010 |
| <b>Inspector</b>               | Mick Earl  |
| <b>Type of inspection</b>      | Random     |

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|--------------------------------|------------|
| <b>Date of last inspection</b> | 24/02/2010 |
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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 outcomes for children set out in the Children Act 2004 and the relevant National Minimum Standards for the service.

## 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 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-sized 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 overall quality rating is good.

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

National minimum standards were sampled in Staying Safe outcome area and checks made on actions from the last inspection. This identified the home has good strengths. These are in ensuring privacy and confidentiality, providing individual support, providing a physically safe home, promoting the protection of young people and safe staff recruitment.

There are two areas for improvement and these include the recording of restraints and having systems in place to consult with young people, their parents and placing authorities

### **Improvements since the last inspection**

The three actions raised at the last inspection concerning young people's documentation and the supervision frequency and recording have been 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 home has good quality policies and procedures to ensure children's privacy is respected and their confidentiality is safeguarded. Staff promote young people's dignity at all times and personal information is kept secure and maintained confidentially. Young people are able to make and receive telephone calls in private.

The home has a suitable system for recording of complaints and the records show the outcome and action taken to resolve issues. Complaints information is available in a format accessible to the young people.

There are clear policies, procedures and guidance for safeguarding young people's welfare. These procedures are known to staff who demonstrate a good understanding of the actions required to protect young people from abuse. Staff are trained in child protection and know how to record and report concerns.

The incidence of bullying is very low. However, staff remain vigilant and ensure that any bullying behaviour is challenged and dealt with effectively. Staff have been trained in the home's countering bullying policy and systems are in place to record and report any incidents of bullying and harassment.

Staff take appropriate action when young people go missing or are absent from the home without permission. There are suitable policies and procedures in place and each young person's assessment includes the risk of them going missing without permission.

Effective arrangements are in place to help young people develop socially acceptable behaviour. Policies, procedures and guidance in respect of dealing with the use of physical intervention and the use of measures of control are clear. Staff are trained in managing challenging behaviours and the young people benefit from having individualised behaviour plans and risk assessments. There have been sixteen restraints since the last inspection and records do not always contain the correct information to show that staff control young people in a safe way. There have been 75 sanctions recorded and the records contain the required information.

The home undertakes the required checks in respect of fire, emergency and safety equipment. Fire drills and evacuations are held frequently and all staff are trained in fire evacuation procedures. There are comprehensive risk assessment and management arrangements in place and the home is generally free from hazards.

Systems and procedures for the safe recruitment, selection and vetting of staff are robust. Satisfactory systems are in place to monitor and vet all visitors to the home. This helps to keep young people safe through ensuring that only suitable people have access to the home.

## 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 good.

The systems in place to monitor the home and to inform the annual development plan do not include any formal procedure for obtaining the views of young people, their parents and placing authorities. This is needed to show that the home values consultation with others.

## 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/s meets the Care Standards Act 2000, Children's Homes Regulations 2001 and the National Minimum Standards. The Registered Provider(s) must comply with the given timescales.

| Std. | Action                                                                                                                                                  | Due date   |
|------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| 22   | maintain an accurate and up-to-date record of measures of control used, as set out in Regulation 17 (Regulation17)                                      | 10/01/2011 |
| 34   | ensure the systems in place to monitor the home provides for consultation with children, their parents and placing authorities (Regulation 34 (3) (1)). | 31/01/2011 |