

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC003884
Inspection date	11 January 2010
Inspector	Jennifer Reed
Type of Inspection	Random

Date of last inspection	15 April 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

The home is a modern, semi-detached property, situated in a residential area within a village setting. The nearby town provides good access to a range of education, leisure, medical and transport services. The home provides a sitting room, kitchen and dining area, a family bathroom, the staff office/bedroom, a second staff bedroom and the young person's bedroom. There is an enclosed rear garden and available parking.

The home is registered to provide care and accommodation for one young person, of either gender, aged from 7 to under 18 years of age. Staffing levels are provided to meet the assessed needs of the young person placed.

Summary

This was an announced interim inspection; the home was not currently providing accommodation to a young person. Our inspection methodology relies on evidence found at the time of inspection and this essentially includes users' views about the service. As this evidence is not available when there are no children and young people present, we have completed a proportionate inspection; the purpose of which is to decide that should an admission be made the service would be able to work to a satisfactory standard.

It is noted that the home provided accommodation to a young person in the period between this inspection and the previous inspection.

The overall quality rating is satisfactory.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

No statutory requirements or good practice recommendations were made at the previous inspection.

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

The home has sufficient policies and procedures in place which direct staff on how to meet the health needs of accommodated young people. Placement planning includes detailed health plans for young people and the home has well -embedded arrangements to register young people with local health practitioners. The home provides suitable secure storage for the safekeeping of medication and keeps clear records for the administration of any medication to young people. All staff are trained in giving emergency first aid.

Hygiene standards within the home are high and staff are trained in food hygiene and safe food handling practices. The kitchen is well equipped and the dining room provides suitable facilities for eating meals. The home encourages young people to take part in menu planning, meal preparation and cooking.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Policies, procedures and the organisation of the home provide young people with a sufficient level of privacy. For example, young people have their own bedroom; they can make telephone calls in private if this is in accordance with their care plans. Staff are expected to adhere to policy guidance on managing confidential information and documents can be securely stored.

The home has a good range of risk assessments for the premises, activities and any likely hazards. Fire safety checks are made every week, ensuring the home is safe for a new admission. Fire drills have been undertaken to ensure that staff know how to manage any emergency evacuation of the home; staff attend training in fire awareness. The home reviews current risk assessments and expects to complete further risk assessments to meet the individual needs of any new admission to the home.

Children and young people are kept safe by the home's systems, policies and procedures in place. Staff are given clear guidance in how to deal with any complaints, safeguarding or bullying issues, absences without authority and behaviour management. An effective representations system operates in the home and young people are encouraged to raise any concerns they might have. Staff receive regular training in control and restraint techniques and child protection, to help them safeguard children and young people from the risk of harm.

The company's recruitment and selection procedures meet current guidelines for safer recruitment practices.

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 satisfactory.

The home is well furnished and maintained to a good standard, providing a comfortable home and sufficient space to accommodate one young person of either gender. The young person has their own bedroom which is currently decorated in neutral colours; on placement, young people will be able to personalise their room.

This unoccupied home is kept heated and it is regularly checked by the Registered Manager. The home is ready to accommodate a new placement immediately.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The home's core Statement of Purpose describes the operation of the home and is available on request to placing authorities, young people and parents. When a young person is accommodated, the registered person will update the Statement of Purpose to accurately reflect how the home will meet that particular young person's individual needs.

Staff undertake sufficient training to support them in looking after children and young people well. This includes a comprehensive induction programme and foundation training in relevant areas. Specific training is arranged as required, to help staff best meet the unique needs of

individual children and young people. The Registered Manager is suitably qualified to manage this home and there is a structured staff supervision system in place. A staff team is identified to work in the home when a new admission is made. However, the inspection identified that a continuity of staffing was not always maintained for the previously accommodated young person.

Standards of care and the condition of the premises are regularly reviewed and evaluated by the independent person and the Registered Person, contributing to improvement in care practices within the home. For example, the Registered Manager is required to make a written response to any actions or recommendations made by the independent visitor; this process is monitored by the registered person. The home's records and documentation provide a satisfactory framework to record a young person's development and progress.

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 Children's 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):

- make every effort to achieve continuity of staffing such that children's attachments are not overly disrupted [national minimum standard 30]