

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC005589
Inspection date	23 November 2009
Inspector	Mark Kersh
Type of Inspection	Random

Date of last inspection	14 August 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

This is a children's home that is part of a large organisation. It provides community based placements for up to two young people, of either gender. The home is near to the local town centre and public transport links and leisure amenities are easily accessible. The home has three bedrooms and is situated on a main road. Young people are given information about the services the home provides when they come to the home.

Each young person has a bedroom of their own and the accommodation comprises of a kitchen, two lounges one of which one is used for dining, bathroom and a staff sleeping-in room, which is also the office. There is a yard at the rear of the property.

Two young people are currently living at the home.

Summary

This interim inspection looked at the progress the home has made with the recommendations made at the last key inspection on Friday 14 August 2009. One recommendation related to pathway plans and another for the manager to submit an application to Ofsted for registration. In addition, the key standards linked to the outcome area of staying safe were inspected. Due to the limitations of this inspection, the overall quality rating made at the last key inspection remains the same.

The home continues to be staffed and managed well. Young people are generally settled into their placements, which are all planned. There continues to be a strong emphasis placed on the protection of young people and keeping them safe.

No major issues or concerns were identified during this visit. The home has not taken appropriate action to resolve previous recommendations.

The overall quality rating is good.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

Following the previous inspection the manager was asked to ensure pathway plans are updated. They were asked to submit an application for manager registration with Ofsted. Pathway plans have not been updated to reflect the good work which has occurred in preparing young people for adulthood and independence. Ofsted has not received an application from the manager in respect of registration. These recommendations will be carried forward and checked for compliance at the next inspection.

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.

Young people's privacy is respected. Each young person has their own bedroom and key and can store their personal belongings securely. Young people can make and receive telephone

calls in private. All written information in relation to young people and staff is stored securely for confidentiality reasons. Staff demonstrate well their understanding and responsibility to maintain confidentiality. They are professional when sharing information and records with other agencies.

Young people receive information about what they should do if they have a concern or a complaint about the care they receive in the home. There is information displayed should young people wish to contact independent services, to raise a concern or complaint. There have been no complaints made by young people or by the surrounding community.

Young people are safeguarded from abuse as the home has clear policies and procedures in place and staff are aware of their responsibilities. All staff are trained to recognise, respond, and report any allegation or suspicion of abuse. There are currently no child protection concerns or safety issues. Good leadership and monitoring from the management team consistently promotes an environment where the safety of young people is paramount. The home is effective in addressing issues around bullying. There have been no issues in relation to bullying and information within the home is displayed, this educates them of the impact bullying can have on themselves and others.

There are good systems in place for staff to notify appropriate authorities of any significant event. Records show there has been two significant events following the previous inspection and that the provider acted appropriately and there were no safeguarding concerns. When young people go missing staff know what to do and follow agreed procedures. Clear records are maintained of instances when young people are absent from the home without authority. These records are easily monitored and allow for patterns to be identified, with professional meetings arranged to reduce the number of instances young people are absent without permission. The outcomes of these meetings are effective and reduce the number of unauthorised absences.

Young people's individual risk assessments and behaviour management plans are detailed and identify strategies for staff to deployment to minimise inappropriate behaviour. Staff say relationships between each other and young people are good. This assists young people to feel valued and promotes positive outcomes for them. There is an incentive scheme which young people understand, that encourages and rewards positive behaviour. All staff are trained in behaviour management methods and safe restraint procedures. There have been no sanctions imposed or restraints used.

Detailed written risk assessments are in place, and activities outside the home and hazards in the home are routinely assessed. Young people, staff and visitors are protected by the procedures staff follow for fire safety. All the required fire safety checks and evacuation tests are completed and recorded in line with the homes fire safety policy and procedure. Electrical and gas equipment is serviced as required, to ensure safe use.

The manager confirmed the organisation follows a fair recruitment and selection procedure and training in relation to this has been completed. Ofsted undertook an audit of staff personnel files in May 2009 any shortfalls found are being addressed by the provider. Staff from another home, within the organisation have been employed at the home, and all necessary recruitment checks are in place.

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 pathway plans are updated within the timescales set out in such plans (NMS 6)
- ensure an application for a Registered Manager is submitted to Ofsted. (NMS 34)