

Inspection report for Children's Home

Unique reference number	SC005751
Inspection date	30/03/2011
Inspector	Ann-Marie Born
Type of inspection	Random

Date of last inspection	01/09/2010
--------------------------------	------------

© Crown copyright 2011

Website: www.ofsted.gov.uk

This document may be reproduced in whole or in part for non-commercial educational purposes, provided that the information quoted is reproduced without adaptation and the source and date of publication are stated.

You can obtain copies of The Children Act 2004, Every Child Matters and The National Minimum Standards for Children's Services from: The Stationery Office (TSO) PO Box 29, St Crispins, Duke Street, Norwich, NR3 1GN. Tel: 0870 600 5522. Online ordering: www.tso.co.uk/bookshop

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

The home is a single occupancy children's home, which provides care and accommodation for young people aged from 11 to 17 years, of either sex. The home is situated within a town and is within easy access of public transport and local amenities.

There was one young person present in the home at the time of the inspection who contributed fully to the inspection process.

Summary

The overall quality rating is good.

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

This was an unannounced, interim inspection at which the outcome area of staying safe was inspected. Actions taken in response to previous recommendations were also assessed.

This children's home is a good service. The warm and nurturing staff team have created a homely, friendly and child-centred culture for young people. The positive behaviour management techniques and individual support offered to young people is a major strength. One young person stated, 'I love it here, it's the only place I've stayed where I've wanted to'.

All shortfalls identified at this inspection are already being addressed by the provider. Therefore, no recommendations have been made.

Improvements since the last inspection

Two recommendations were made as a result of the last inspection. Monitoring procedures are now in place for young people who will be keeping and administering their own medication. The use of medication is discussed with young people every week in their key worker sessions and a locked cabinet to store medicines is provided for their bedroom.

The home has conducted a range of fire drills at different times of the day. They record clearly where the fire may be located so that the staff and young people exit through different doors. However, the latest a drill has taken place is 9pm which does not fully comply with the standards.

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. Information about young people is stored securely and staff ensure confidentiality at all times. Young people have access to a private telephone and contact numbers for outside agencies are made available. Young people have their own bedroom and bathroom. These are lockable but can be opened by staff in case of an emergency. This promotes young people's privacy and dignity. Room search procedures are in place. Records show that these are used by staff appropriately and in order to safeguard young people. However, young people have not been given the opportunity to comment on the searches. There have not been any searches since the last inspection.

The comprehensive complaints procedures is understood by young people and staff. Young people are informed about the procedure in the young people's guide and in their welcome packs. Staff are trained so that they can provide good support to young people when needed. This effectively promotes a young person's rights. Records show that there have been no complaints since the last inspection.

Staff are trained in effective child protection procedures. They have access to the home's own safeguarding policies and to the Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures. However, not all staff were aware of where to find these. Links have been made with an outside agency to provide further training on matters relating to sexual exploitation which further promotes the safety of young people. However, no procedures relating to sexual exploitation were in place. Records show that child protection concerns have been robustly and appropriately managed.

This is a single placement and there have been no incidents of bullying. However, staff are trained in how to counter bullying which enables them to support young people if there were any episodes of bullying outside of the home.

Robust and comprehensive policies and procedures are in place for when a young person is absent without authority. Links have been made with a specialist police team to assist in the search for a young person. Appropriate logs are kept of any such absences and records show that a young person took up the opportunity to speak to someone independent of the home. A young person now sees the independent person on a regular basis as a 'befriender'. Young people are effectively safeguarded and their rights protected by these procedures.

The committed staff team work with young people to prevent absences by developing relationships with appropriate family members and those close to them.

This encourages them to see the home as a place they want to be. Young people know the staff team will look for them to protect them. A young person stated, 'They listen, they care and they find me'.

Very good relationships are developed between young people and staff. Young people are encouraged by the inspiring example shown by staff members to develop positive, safe behaviours. They are taught essential independence skills which further promotes their self-esteem. These are underpinned by effective individual risk assessments. Policies and procedures regarding the use of restraints and sanctions are in place and records show that none have been used since the last inspection. One young person stated, 'This is the only place where they've made me do education and I think they care that I do'.

Effective health and safety systems operate within the home. There are a range of comprehensive risk assessments in place for each young person. Servicing of all domestic appliances and fire safety equipment are up to date thereby promoting the safety of young people and staff. Fire drills take place regularly and are appropriately recorded. These contribute towards young people and staff knowing what to do in the event of an emergency. However, no overnight evacuation drill has been conducted.

Effective procedures for vetting visitors to the home are in place. Recruitment and selection procedures are robust. These enhance the safety of young people by monitoring visitors to the home and ensuring the appointment of suitable staff who are appropriately trained to care for them.

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.