

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC006010
Inspection date	31 August 2010
Inspector	Sharon Lloyd
Type of Inspection	Random

Date of last inspection	11 February 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 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 provides residential care and accommodation for one young person. It is a semi-detached house with an enclosed rear garden. On the ground floor there is a living room with dining area and a kitchen. Upstairs there are three bedrooms. One bedroom is used by the young person, one is used as a staff sleep-in room and the other doubles as a staff sleep-in room and office. There is also a family-sized bathroom.

The home is situated in a residential area and is a short distance from the town centre with its shops and leisure facilities.

Summary

At this unannounced, interim inspection, the national minimum standards relating to the outcome area staying safe were inspected. Recommendations made following the last report were followed up.

Children live in a safe and secure environment. Staff are well trained and follow good procedures that promote children's safety and well-being. There are no recommendations made or actions required as a result of this inspection.

The overall quality rating is good.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

Two recommendations were made following the last inspection and both have been addressed. Good security arrangements are in place to protect children's confidential information. Any changes to children's placement plans are agreed by the placing social worker.

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 stores children's confidential information securely. It has good procedures and practices to promote privacy and dignity. Room searches are carried out only when necessary to promote children's welfare and any such searches are appropriately recorded.

Three complaints have been made since the last inspection and all have been dealt with in good time and are well recorded in a bound log book. Children meet with staff formally every week to discuss any issues they wish to raise and their views are taken into account when planning their day-to-day activities and routines.

Staff provide children who are the subject of allegations with good, impartial support. The home makes sure children have access to independent legal advice and are supported through any criminal and court proceedings, where necessary. All new staff receive training in safeguarding children. There is a rolling programme of refresher and further training for

established staff. This means that staff know what to do in the event of an allegation or disclosure of abuse.

The home has a bullying prevention policy. Some children try to bully staff by targeting a particular member of staff and verbally and physically abusing that person. The staff team are aware of this and work consistently together to ensure children understand that bullying is not tolerated. Through follow up discussion of incidents, children learn to develop more suitable and acceptable ways of demonstrating their anger.

The home has an effective protocol with the police that promotes the welfare of children who are missing from home. This ensures that children's safety is prioritised and they return to the home quickly. On return, they are offered the opportunity to speak to an independent person so that they can discuss why they went missing and report any concerns they have about the home.

The home maintains good liaison with parents, social workers and other professionals so that those with responsibility for decision making about a child are kept informed about the child's progress and any serious incidents that occur. The home notifies Ofsted of serious events in accordance with its duties so that the regulator has a good overview of any serious incidents that occur.

Staff receive guidance and training in the positive management of behaviour so they know how to respond appropriately to children to promote the development of acceptable behaviour and reduce the incidents of anti-social behaviour. There have been three restraints since the last inspection. Two of these have involved using inappropriate holds. This has been addressed with the staff concerned and they have received further training in restraint so that children are kept safe from injury caused by poor restraint techniques. The record of additional measures of control is well maintained and shows that sanctions are used appropriately.

Risk assessments are in place in relation to children's planned activities and known behaviours. They guide staff in how to deal with potentially dangerous, yet predictable situations so that children's safety continues to be promoted.

The home provides children with a safe and comfortable place to live. It gives very high priority to health and safety matters and there are very good routines and safety checks in place to ensure that children live in a home that is secure and as far as possible, hazard-free. Robust recruitment procedures and good monitoring of visitors ensure that children are protected, as far as possible, from coming into contact with potential abusers.

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

There are no recommendations.