

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC006921
Inspection date	2 September 2009
Inspector	Margaret Lynes
Type of Inspection	Random

Date of last inspection	19 March 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 registered to accommodate up to five young people. The Statement of Purpose specifies an age range of 12 to 15 on admission, with the specific intention of providing a crisis intervention service. This will be for a maximum of 13 weeks.

The home is a detached property with a large garden situated in a residential area close to shops, amenities and public transport.

Summary

This was a random unannounced inspection, at which a number of key standards were inspected. As the home has yet to accept any referrals, the performance of the home against the standards relating to enjoying and achieving and positive contribution could not be determined.

The refurbishment of the building is complete, and all necessary documentation is in place. Most of the staff team have been recruited, with some new appointees just waiting for the return of their CRB checks before they start work. Once the full team is in place, the manager confirmed that referrals will be accepted.

The home has been assessed as being ready to provide at least a satisfactory service to young people.

The overall quality rating is satisfactory.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

The last inspection had resulted in seven actions being made. These related to the replacement of sanitary fittings; the installation of a payphone for the young people; the provision of a suitable medication cabinet; the fitting of restrictors to windows above the ground floor; health and safety checks; the furnishing of bedrooms and communal rooms and improving the security of the building. All of these areas have been attended to, resulting in the premises being fit for occupation.

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

The home has a pleasant kitchen/diner, recently refurbished, which provides adequate space for young people and staff to eat together. Staff confirmed that the young people will be encouraged to participate in menu planning and meal preparation and also enabled to grow their own vegetables.

Appropriate documentation is in place for staff to use once the home starts to accept referrals. This includes a written health plan, and a record of any illnesses, injury or accident. There is a policy and written guidance on promoting the health of the young people. This includes guidance on issues such as drug and alcohol use; smoking; sexual health; hygiene; sickle cell and HIV/Aids.

A detailed medication administration procedure is in place. It includes reference to homely remedies and self medication. There is appropriate storage for medication, and staff have received training in the medication administration system that is to be used.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Each young person will be given a key to their bedroom, and also a front door key depending on their ability to use it appropriately. There are guidelines in place covering access to records and the circumstances under which a room may be searched. The payphone for young people is situated in as private a position as is possible. Information about the young people will be stored appropriately in the staff room.

A complaints procedure is in place. It contains specific reference to external complaints from, for example, the local community. Young people will be provided with forms which they can complete to make a complaint. They will also be provided with a form which they can fill out if they need assistance in making that complaint.

There are systems in place to promote the safety and welfare of the young people. These include in-house child protection procedures and a copy of the local authority safeguarding policies and procedures. Staff have received child protection training.

There is a policy on countering bullying and a clear statement in the young people's guide that bullying is not acceptable, and if it occurs what to do about it. The home has a written policy regarding young people who are absent without consent.

Appropriate records books are in place in which to record any episodes of restraint and sanctions. Policies and procedures are available to staff relating to behaviour management, measures of control and sanctions, prohibited measures and dealing with violence. There is also a policy relating to police involvement in the home.

Positive steps are taken to keep young people, staff and visitors safe from hazards. Appropriate health and safety checks have been carried out on, for example, the fire detection system, emergency lighting, electrical installation and gas appliances. Staff have received first aid training and the home is appropriately insured.

Recruitment of staff is ongoing. The manager is clear that no referrals will be considered until a full staff team is in place. Staff files will be inspected at the next inspection. At the time of this visit the recruitment procedure was being updated and so was not available for inspection.

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 deputy manager commented that they are considering extending the care plans so that once the assessment is over and the young person has returned home, the care plan can be continued in the family environment with input from staff as necessary. There is a procedure in place regarding admission and discharge. The latter states that the home will ensure that each young person has a comprehensive plan which specifies the support and assistance they will need for the transition into adulthood. This plan will fit in with the pathway plan.

The home has been redecorated to an acceptable standard. All of the bedrooms have been nicely furnished, as have the communal areas. Restrictors have been fitted to first floor windows, and the security of the building is satisfactory.

The large rear garden has been cleared of weeds and undergrowth, and the large garage has been turned into a games room. The exterior of the house has been repainted, and the staff and manager's offices have been refurbished and are ready for use.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The promotion of equality and diversity is satisfactory. The home has clear policies relating to equality and diversity, including equal opportunities, anti discrimination, anti racism, culture and religion, sexuality and personal relationships, gender mix and interaction. Staff have undergone training in equal opportunities.

There is a detailed Statement of Purpose in place, which covers the issues required under the Regulations. There is also an extensive young people's guide, running to more than 50 pages.

In the absence of the manager there is a deputy who will cover. Staff are still being recruited so it is not yet possible to determine staffing levels. The newly appointed staff have undergone a range of training. This includes an induction; health and safety; infection control; transactional analysis; first aid; medication; team teach; drug awareness; risk assessments and care planning.

The manager stated that she intends to monitor the performance of the home against its Statement of Purpose. She plans to introduce systems to regularly check, for example, that work has been carried out and to review care plans. She also intends to prepare an action plan in response to Regulation 33 visit reports.

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.