

Inspection report for Children's Home

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Inspector	Graham Robinson
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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 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 family house located within an established residential community. It is within easy distance of recreational, educational and health facilities. The communal areas of the home include a lounge/diner, kitchen, bathroom and a garden. Each young person has their own bedroom. There is a staff sleeping-in room which is also the staff office.

The home offers services and care for up-to-two young people from 10 to 17 years of age with emotional or behavioural difficulties. It is part of a large organisation operating a number of children's homes. One young person currently lives in the home and was present during the inspection.

Summary

The overall quality rating is good.

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

This unannounced interim inspection was used to follow up the actions and recommendations made at the previous inspection. In addition, the key standards linked to staying safe were reviewed. No other areas have been inspected on this occasion, so no change to the overall quality rating attained at the previous full inspection has been made.

Since the previous inspection, the management, staff group, structure, working practices and ethos of the home remains as it was, with no changes. The home is stable and continues to provide a good standard of care and a safe environment for young people, where they are valued and respected.

Feedback from young people regarding their experiences of living in the home is positive. They feel well supported by staff and are settled in their placement. They say they are comfortable and feel safe. There are no ongoing behaviour management issues.

No new areas of concern have been raised as a result of this inspection. Therefore, no new actions or recommendations have been made.

Improvements since the last inspection

The report from the previous inspection contains one action and two recommendations. Each one has been addressed positively. This has led to improvements regarding the accuracy of the home's Statement of Purpose, more detail in a young person's health plan and revised practices for staff regarding

entering a young person's bedroom without permission. This has resulted in improved privacy for young people.

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 safety and rights of young people are protected. The organisation, working practices, links with external agencies and agreed strategies to keep young people safe, remain intact. There have been no incidents of a safeguarding nature affecting the home since the previous inspection. However, appropriate procedures are in place and understood by staff. All staff have received safeguarding training.

Privacy is not an issue of concern to young people. They confirm that staff do not enter bedrooms without permission and respect their right to privacy. Bedrooms are single occupancy and can be accessed freely. Young people have their own mobile phone, but can use the home's portable telephone to make and receive calls from social workers and families in private.

Although not tested since the previous inspection, young people understand how to access the formal complaints procedures, with appropriate information easily accessible. The excellent relationships between young people and staff allow for grumbles and issues of concern to be resolved appropriately, without the need for a formal complaint to be made.

Bullying is currently not a live issue and young people have no concerns on this matter. Staff are sensitive to young people's needs and their vulnerabilities when away from the home. Discussions about safety away from the home take place regularly.

Incidents linked to behaviour management are not occurring, due to the stability of the placements and the excellent relationships observed between young people and staff. This is underpinned in the home's own records. For example, since the previous inspection there have been no incidents of missing from home or physical intervention and only one minor sanction imposed. Positive behaviour is well recorded with an appropriate rewards system in place. All staff have received positive intervention training.

General health and safety issues are addressed by a range of risk assessments identifying hazards both in and away from the home. These are reviewed regularly. Young people are familiarised with the fire procedures by taking part in regular fire drills. Appropriate service contracts for gas, fire and electrical equipment are in place.

The staff team are stable and long serving, with no new staff being recruited since the previous inspection. Appropriate procedures to recruit and clear new staff 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.