

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	1 March 2010
Inspector	Jacqueline Dunster
Type of Inspection	Random

Date of last inspection	23 July 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 a semi-detached 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, lean-to 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 years to under 18 years of age with emotional or behavioural difficulties. It is part of a large organisation operating a number of children's homes.

Summary

During this interim inspection which was unannounced, all key standards relating to keeping young people safe were inspected. The inspection assessed progress on one requirement imposed following the last key inspection.

The home continues to be judged good overall. Staff have a good understanding of the procedures and practices to protect young people from harm. They take their duty to implement them seriously. Staff provide good care for young people.

The home has one shortfall in fire management arising from 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

Following the last inspection the home was required to ensure written risk assessments are carried out on young people who self-medicate. This has been achieved.

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

The home is carrying out risk assessments when young people wish to manage their own medication. They take into account the advice of medical practitioners. As a result, staff allow young people to develop independent management of their own health care while ensuring they manage their medication as safely as possible.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The home operates procedures and guidance to protect young people's privacy and dignity. Staff ensure they comply with these. Consequently, young people can feel confident their privacy will not be breached unnecessarily or their dignity compromised by the staff.

The home receives very few complaints. Staff build trusting relationships with young people and encourage them to raise day-to-day concerns as they arise. This enables the home to deal

swiftly and effectively with minor issues. As a result, young people can feel confident the home views their complaints and opinions seriously.

The home has effective measures in place to address child protection concerns and to limit the impact of bullying. The home assesses the risk of bullying at the outset of a new placement and undertakes risk management to reduce the likelihood of young people bullying each other. This is effective in practice and ensures young people can feel safe in the home.

The home is proactive when a young person is absent without permission. Staff work hard to coordinate multi-agency partners to address concerns about absence. Staff take action to find young people and welcome them back when they return. They try to understand the reasons young people leave the home in these circumstances and work with them to reduce the likelihood of reoccurrence.

Sanctions are used sparingly and there have been no recent incidents of physical intervention. The home promotes the use of reward and praise as the main method to develop positive behaviour and responsibility.

The home takes health and safety seriously. Environmental and fire risks are assessed and managed. However, the home has not undertaken a fire drill during the night in the past 12 months. This could result in failure to safely evacuate the building in the event of a night time fire.

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 a fire drill is held at night in a 12 month period. (National Minimum Standard 26.8)