

Inspection report for Children's Home

Unique reference number	SC008271
Inspection date	24/03/2011
Inspector	Mark Ryder
Type of inspection	Random

Date of last inspection	13/12/2010
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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 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 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 17 years of age with emotional or behavioural difficulties. It is part of a larger organisation operating a number of children's homes in the local area. There are presently two young people in placement. Both were not present during this inspection.

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 in which the safety and welfare of young people were assessed. No other outcome areas were judged at this visit. The home continues to provide a good level of care and support for young people. Staff are motivated and competent. Records are clear, specific and regularly monitored. There were no recommendations or actions made as a result of this inspection.

Improvements since the last inspection

There were no action or recommendations from the last inspection.

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.

Staff maintain an environment in which young people thrive and remain safe. The building provides a suitable environment for young people to live. Fire safety is

paramount with regular drills and system checks. Maintenance of gas, electrical appliances and hard wiring installations are made within required timescales. There is suitable public and employee liability insurance.

Staff respect the privacy of young people through maintaining personal space when required. Confidential information is sensitively handled. Young people are aware of the complaint process. There are opportunities for young people or parents to make a complaint if they wish. Support agency numbers for young people are also available. However, complaints at this home are not common. Parents are very pleased with the care of their children and have recorded their satisfaction within the home's compliments record.

Staff are aware of the potential for bullying and ensure that the young people understand the impact of this type of behaviour. Weekly resident meetings raise bullying as a standing item to ensure that all young people fully understand that this will be challenged by staff. Behavioural risk assessments reflect the vulnerability of young people and how staff can protect them.

Protocols are in place between the home, the police and placing authority if young people are missing from the home without consent of adults. This works well. There is a local police liaison officer who visits regularly to speak to young people and staff informally. Staff understand the reporting procedures based upon the identified level of risk. Young people are helped to talk about the reasons why they left the home so that an informed view can be made on what triggers or indicators there are.

Staff manage young people's behaviour in a positive and appropriate way. The emphasis of rewarding good behaviour as a matter of course encourages a culture of respect. Young people want to succeed and enjoy their placements. This is a particularly good aspect of this provision.

Staff understand and respond to safeguarding concerns. All staff have suitable training and are familiar with procedures to keep young people safe. For example, whistle blowing procedures are available to all staff.

Recruitment practice is rigorous with staff only able to start working with young people until all employment and Criminal Records Bureau checks have been completed. This means that the selection of staff provides young people with carers who are suitable to work with children.

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.