

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC008273
Inspection date	18 February 2010
Inspector	Susan Mullin
Type of Inspection	Random

Date of last inspection	4 August 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 one of four children's homes owned by a private company. It is registered to provide care for two young people of either sex between the ages of 10 and 18 years with emotional or behavioural difficulties. However, the home only provides care for one young person at any one time, unless the two children are siblings and it is considered appropriate for them to share a bedroom. Admissions to the home are usually planned but emergency admissions are accepted.

The home is a semi-detached mews type property built in 1999. It is situated in the residential area on the outskirts of a town. The home is in close proximity to a variety of shops and local leisure facilities and amenities.

Summary

This was an unannounced interim inspection. The outcome areas of being healthy, enjoying and achieving, making a positive contribution, economic wellbeing and organisation were not looked at during this inspection. Standards in relation to staying safe were inspected. At the time of the inspection one young person was living at the home and spoke at length with the inspector. The young person had nothing but praise for the staff and their support through an initially difficult time. The young person was fully engaged in education and learning life skills. The young person stated that it would be nice to stay in the home 'always'.

The home provides a good standard of care for young people. Staff work hard to keep young people safe, with young people's needs being central to work undertaken by staff.

This judgement will be reviewed at the home's next full inspection when all key national minimum standards will be re-assessed.

The overall quality rating is good.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

One recommendation made at the last inspection to implement a fire risk assessment has now been met.

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.

Young people live in a home where staff understand their role and responsibilities for keeping young people safe. Safeguarding procedures are in place; staff are trained and are aware of what to do if they are concerned about a young person's safety or protection.

Young people's privacy is respected. The home has clear guidelines on privacy and confidentiality, which are known and followed by staff. Staff do not enter young people's rooms without permission, except when young people are considered at risk. This was confirmed by a young person present. Information held in respect of young people is stored in lockable facilities,

which are only accessible to staff. Young people have access to a telephone, which allows private conversation when this is an agreed part of their placement plan.

Young people understand how to make a complaint if they have any concerns about their care and they are confident that the manager and staff listen to them and take appropriate action when necessary. Young people confirm that they are able to seek support from an independent advocate if they wish to. Information regarding making a complaint is included in the young person's guide. This indicates that the home take young people's concerns seriously.

Young people live in a caring and safe environment. Young people's welfare is protected by good staff awareness of safeguarding, anti-bullying and unauthorised absence procedures. The home has clear procedures for responding to child protection concerns. The staff have initial training in child protection, which is regularly updated. Staff take all appropriate action to keep young people safe, this includes increased supervision where it is believed that young people are vulnerable to harm. Staff work actively in the home to ensure that bullying does not happen. Young people are well educated about the detrimental effects bullying behaviours have. There have been no unauthorised absences since the last inspection and staff have clear protocols about informing the appropriate authorities should this happen. Staff have prepared profiles of the young people to share with the police to assist in locating young people if they are missing from the home.

The home develops clear plans as to how to protect each young person. This is supported by risk assessment and behaviour management plans. Staff have received training in respect of managing young people's challenging behaviour and are able to diffuse difficult situations where necessary. Young people are assisted to develop socially acceptable behaviour through discussions with staff on an individual basis and being provided with clear details of the home's rules and expectations of them when they are admitted to the home. A range of appropriate rewards and sanctions are used to reinforce positive behaviours. Sanctions, rewards and consequences are age- and needs-appropriate and reparation is encouraged.

Young people live in a home that provides physical safety and security with risks from young people's behaviour and environmental factors being well-managed. Testing of emergency lighting, fire alarms and fire fighting equipment is taking place within appropriate timescales. Fire drills have taken place within the frequency required, including a night-time evacuation.

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.