

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC008274
Inspection date	16 March 2010
Inspector	Susan Mullin
Type of Inspection	Key

Date of last inspection	5 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 company operates the home and the Registered Manager is responsible for another two children's home close by. Each home has a deputy house manager who manages the day-to-day running of the home with the Registered Manager retaining overall responsibility.

The home is a semi-detached property built in the 1970s and is situated in a quiet residential area between the outskirts of a city. The home is in close proximity to a range of shops, local leisure facilities and amenities. The property is fully equipped and furnished on two floors.

Summary

The home is currently not providing accommodation or services to children or young people, therefore a proportional inspection approach is taken. As there is limited evidence available due to there being no children or young people present; the purpose of this inspection is to ascertain that, should an admission be made, the service would be able to work to a satisfactory standard.

The company has a robust set of policies and procedures, which are used in the other settings and meet minimum requirements. The deputy care manager checks the building regularly to ensure all areas are safe and ready to accept an admission at short notice.

The overall quality rating is satisfactory.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

There were no actions or requirements made at the last inspection.

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

All staff employed to work in this home have received training on medication administration, first aid and basic food hygiene. The kitchen is fully equipped with working appliances. The medicine cupboard is fixed to the wall in the locked office and there are no medicines kept within the home. There is a new accident book in the home to record any accident or injuries to staff or young people. The home has a first aid box in the home and one for travelling in the car. These are checked monthly by the deputy manager.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

All staff employed to work in this home have received training in child protection and behaviour management, including restraint measures. There is a fire risk assessment for the building which is currently reviewed monthly by the deputy manager. All staff employed to work in the home

have had fire safety training and records evidence that monthly fire drills are undertaken. Comprehensive risk assessments are in place regarding the facilities in the home and the external building. All equipment in the home is serviced and maintained in line with requirements. Recruitment measures are robust to ensure that young people are looked after by properly vetted adults and are kept safe in the home.

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 satisfactory.

The Statement of Purpose and young person's guide are available in the home and have been recently updated. There is a registered manager in post and a staff of four, which are currently deployed to work at the companies other homes whilst awaiting the next admission. Three of the four staff hold their National Vocational Qualification at level 3 in Caring for Children and Young People.

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.