

Inspection report for Children's Home

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Inspector	Susan Mullin
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You can obtain copies of The Children Act 2004, Every Child Matters and The National Minimum Standards for Children's Services from: The Stationery Office (TSO) PO Box 29, St Crispins, Duke Street, Norwich, NR3 1GN. Tel: 0870 600 5522. Online ordering: www.tso.co.uk/bookshop

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 one of five 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 eight and 17 years with emotional or behavioural difficulties. However, the home only provides care for one young person at any one time, unless the two young people/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 homes 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 on 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. One young person was resident at the time of the visit and participated in the inspection process.

Summary

The overall quality rating is good.

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

This unannounced interim inspection focused on the outcome achieved by the home in the staying safe group, as identified in the Every Child Matters outcome groups. Other outcomes were not assessed during this visit, as they were assessed as good when last inspected and will be the focus of the next visit to the service. The overall judgement remains good.

Young people receive appropriate guidance and support from staff and as a result they are making good progress in managing their own behaviours.

Improvements since the last inspection

There were no actions or recommendations made at 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.

The system in place to promote the safety and welfare of young people is good. Staff are provided with a good range of policies that specifically address staff recruitment, countering bullying, unauthorised absence, complaints, behaviour management and health and safety. The home monitors and reviews care practice and this ensures that safeguards are effective for young people. Young people at all times are valued and respected and staff practice conveys that they promote safety, respect and dignity. Communication with young people takes place in a manner that respects their right to privacy and confidentiality. Staff seek permission before entering their bedrooms.

Young people are able to raise any issues or concerns through effective formal and informal communication systems, including contact with external independent people or agencies. Young people are provided with clear information on how to make a complaint. Management and staff take all complaints seriously and respond quickly to address issues as they arise. However, no complaints have been made since the last inspection. A written compliment made by a visiting social worker stated 'I have been very pleased with the input, support, care and encouragement given to the young people. The placement staff are always very welcoming and the placement is always homely'.

The welfare of young people is promoted. Appropriate responses are made to any allegation or suspicion of abuse. All staff receive training in child protection and safeguarding and regular refresher training is organised. Newly appointed staff receive training during their induction programme. Young people's whereabouts is supervised at all times and there are no incidents of young people being absent from the home without permission.

All young people have a behaviour management plan that focuses on the actions required to alter and change their behaviour. This is done through consequential management, where the young people are clear about the consequences of unacceptable behaviour. All staff receive training in the use of physical intervention. However, there have no incidents of restraint since the last inspection. Sanctions are used and young people understand what sanctions can be applied and when these circumstances can occur. The use of sanctions is relatively low and mostly includes curtailment of leisure activities. A young person spoken to stated 'I am happy here, I am doing well with my school work'.

The home provides good physical safety and security for young people. Staff

understand their duties and obligations in relation to the promotion of health and safety legislation. The physical environment of the home is well maintained and all domestic installations are regularly serviced and maintained in good order. All young people have a detailed risk assessment that promotes effective care, support and guidance. This includes activities in the home and external activities in the community. Young people take part in fire evacuation drills and understand what they need to do in the event of an emergency.

The home has an established thorough and effective system for the vetting and supervision of visitors. The management implement a robust system for the recruitment of suitable staff to work with young people.

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.