

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC008488
Inspection date	10 February 2010
Inspector	Anthony Kyem
Type of Inspection	Random

Date of last inspection	27 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 provides care and accommodation for up to eight young people between the ages of 10 to 17 years. The home is a large, detached house situated within its own grounds. The home comprises eight single bedrooms, a lounge, dining area, play room, washing facilities and toilets appropriate for the registered numbers. The home is located in a residential area with good access to local amenities.

Summary

This was an unannounced interim inspection. The purpose of this visit was to assess the home's capacity to meet the actions and recommendations previously identified at the last inspection. The outcome area for staying safe and being healthy were also assessed.

Young people's welfare and safety is promoted and safeguarded. They are looked after by experienced staff, who protect them from suffering abuse, exploitation and bullying. The promotion of health and safety is good and young people are protected from potential hazards within the home. Young people have their privacy respected and their private information is treated confidentially.

The overall quality rating is good.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

Staff ensure that the duration of restraints are now recorded, in line with the standards and regulations. This ensures the use of such measures can be monitored to ensure that no measures of control are used excessively. Medical consent is available for staff to administer first aid and non-prescription remedies. Consent forms are appropriately signed by those with parental responsibility.

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Since the last inspection the home has installed a new secure medication cabinet to store medication safely. However, the cabinet has since been damaged. As an interim solution, medication is now stored securely by alternative means to prevent unauthorised access. Staff have obtained parental authority in relation to them being able to administer young people's medication and providing young people with emergency treatment, where required.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Staff are respectful of young people's needs for privacy. Confidential information kept about young people is securely stored, which protects young people's rights in respect of confidentiality. Complaints made by young people are investigated appropriately, with a satisfactory outcome recorded. Young people are protected from abuse and there are no current concerns or issues to do with bullying. Staff are aware of their responsibilities and duties in respect of such matters.

The home's policies and procedures in relation to bullying, safeguarding, complaints and unauthorised absence are all clearly understood and followed by staff. Their awareness of these procedures promotes young people's safety and well-being. While staff are trained to safeguard young people's welfare, training records do not reflect the numbers of staff who are appropriately trained. Minor irregularities with such records were identified.

The systems in place for managing young people's behaviours are undertaken consistently and fairly. The use of physical intervention is minimal and sanctions used by staff are both proportionate and fair. Young people are encouraged to behave in a responsible way, through the effective use of praise, rewards and incentives.

Matters in respect of the home's safety are managed well, with systems in place to promote environmental safety. There are regular checks to the home's fire fighting equipment and fire evacuation tests are routinely held, which ensures that young people know how to evacuate the premises safely. There are annual safety checks undertaken of all gas, fire and portable electrical appliances.

Staff are not permitted to work with children until all of the necessary checks, including enhanced Criminal Records Bureau checks have been completed. They are appropriately vetted and suitably assessed to protect young people from potential abusers.

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 Children's 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 records are updated to show the numbers of staff who have completed training in relation to safeguarding. (NMS 17.8)