

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC013598
Inspection date	17 March 2010
Inspector	Gaynor Moorey
Type of Inspection	Random

Date of last inspection	28 September 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 children's home is registered to offer placements to children with learning disabilities, physical disabilities and children with sensory impairment, on a respite basis. The home is owned and run by a charitable organisation. The home is a respite facility and accommodates children of both genders up to 18 years of age. It is currently offering a respite service to over 80 children and young people.

Summary

This unannounced random inspection took place on a weekday. The purpose of the inspection was to undertake a review of the last inspection report focusing on staying safe and any recommendations or actions made at this time.

The manager and the experienced staff team continue to provide an outstanding standard of care. The home tries to ensure the safety of the children through comprehensive and clear guidance, policies and procedures. The home is maintained to an outstanding level, providing a homely environment for the children to live in.

The overall quality rating is outstanding.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

There were no recommendations or actions 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 outstanding.

Staff ensure that children's confidentiality and privacy is respected and safeguarded by knocking on bedroom doors. Confidential information relating to each child is kept in an appropriate locked facility. All information is contained in the office/sleeping-in room. Staff receive guidance on the confidentiality of information. Children in need of assistance to carry out personal care are treated with dignity and respect.

Policies and procedures are in place to safeguard and promote the children's welfare. Complaints are dealt with effectively and appropriately and staff enable children to make complaints. Children's complaints would be taken seriously and investigated in an appropriate manner. There have been no complaints since the last inspection. A file holding compliments and thanks shows positive feedback about the care in the home.

Staff receive child protection training in their induction programme and also in subsequent refresher courses during their employment. The home has a clear policy when dealing with child protection which includes up-to-date safeguarding guidance. No child protection incidents have been recorded since the last inspection.

The home operates a policy of zero tolerance towards bullying and the children are made aware of the guidance on admission. Children's behaviour is identified and risk assessed within their behaviour management plans. Bullying is not identified as a problem at the home.

There is a policy and procedure for reporting children who are absent without authority. Records of absconding show there have not been any incidents. Staff are provided with clear guidance to address such situations, with robust risk assessments in place to highlight any concerns the children may pose to themselves or others.

Records examined indicated that serious incidents are reported as required by regulation. The manager confirmed that serious incidents are investigated and they also involve other agencies. There have been no significant incidents since the last inspection.

Staff try to work on positives rather than negatives to encourage the children around behaviour. The children share good, supportive relationships with staff and are given opportunities to discuss issues and life within the home in one-to-one sessions with key workers and in the group meetings. All sanctions are recorded in a dedicated book. No sanctions have been given since the last inspection.

All staff receive training in the use of physical restraint. The home has a policy which offers guidance to staff in behaviour management and restraint. The children have risk assessments in place; these are contained within their behaviour management plans. Staff encourage appropriate and acceptable behaviour. A small amount of restraint is used at the home. Staff support the children with their behaviour through appropriate professional relationships.

Areas of potential risk for the young people are assessed and the children are safeguarded, where possible, from harm. The home has comprehensive documentation related to risk assessing activities, fire risk and the environment. The home has recently finished a new extension which has provided the children with new facilities. The extension has been signed off by the building inspector. Records demonstrate that the home's old fire alarm system was tested regularly and evacuation exercises carried out. The home has a new fire system, due to the extension, which has been approved by the fire service. Clear systems are in place and checks were seen from outside agencies and from the home's monitoring systems. The home operates a system to monitor visitors. The home carries the appropriate amount of insurance.

Records of new staff employed since the last inspection indicate that staff are subject to a comprehensive recruitment process. The records show that all the necessary and required checks are completed prior to staff working with children. Volunteer staff from overseas hold safety checks from their country of origin.

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 outstanding.

The home's location, design and size are in keeping with its purpose. The home has a large and child-centred garden which is safe for the children to play in. The home utilises the local community for activities. Records demonstrate that the home is subject to regular health and safety risk assessments and has certification relating to gas, electrical and fire equipment. The home has plans for regeneration for all areas in the home and garden.

The accommodation is clean and tidy and provides each young person with both communal areas for group living and individualised private areas, such as their bedrooms, where they can spend time alone. Bedrooms are decorated with beautiful murals which help the children to recognise the bedrooms when they stay overnight. There are adequate bathroom and toilet facilities. Bathrooms are equipped with specialist facilities to meet the needs of the children. Sleeping-in staff have their own room and bathroom.

The home has a number of communal areas and rooms including two lounge areas which are filled with areas specifically designed for the children including a soft play area, a quiet area equipped with lots of soft toys, a lounge with a large television, ball pool, music system and soft furnishings and a playroom. The house is purpose-built for the children and has excellent facilities. The new extension is now finished and offers the children new facilities including a kitchen, dining room and reception area. The new facilities are purpose-built and are of outstanding quality.

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.