

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC015254
Inspection date	6 January 2010
Inspector	Jane Rushby
Type of Inspection	Random

Date of last inspection	2 April 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

This children's home provides care, education and accommodation for five male children between the ages of 11 to 17 years. The home accommodates children or young people who have emotional or behavioural difficulties or a learning disability. The home is situated in a rural location. The accommodation comprises of a living and dining room, a quiet room and a games room. Young people have their own bedrooms and have access to two bathrooms. The home has a front and back garden with grass areas suitable for the young people to either play games or grow plants. There is a gravel area which is used for parking vehicles belonging to the home.

Summary

At this unannounced interim inspection all key standards in staying safe were inspected. The other outcomes had all been judged as good or outstanding at the previous full inspection on 2nd April 2009. This is a good service. Young people benefit from effective child protection, complaints and risk assessment procedures. Staff treat young people with respect and sensitivity. There has been an increase in the level of challenging behaviour exhibited at the home which has been responded to appropriately by staff. There are no actions or recommendations arising from this inspection. There are five young people currently living in the home and all were present during the visit. Two of the young people participated in the inspection.

The overall quality rating is good.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the registered person was asked to give notice in writing to Ofsted of the absence of the registered manager. The current manager is in the process of making an application to register with Ofsted and there have been no further changes in management arrangements since the last visit. The registered person was also asked to ensure that risk assessments are signed, dated, and regularly reviewed. This recommendation has been carried out.

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's privacy is respected and information is confidentially handled. Young people's records are securely stored in the office and staff receive training relating to privacy and confidentiality as part of their induction.

Young people benefit from an effective complaints process which is easily accessible. There have been three complaints made to the home since the last visit which have been appropriately investigated and the complainants informed of the outcome. Young people feel they can talk to staff about any concerns they have and that staff treat them with sensitivity and with respect. A young person said 'staff are really good here'.

Young people benefit from effective safeguarding and behaviour management strategies and a high level of staff supervision is in place. Staff have a sound knowledge of safeguarding and follow required procedures should there be allegations or disclosures of abuse. New staff receive a briefing in child protection during induction. No concerns were raised about bullying behaviour at this visit and young people report that should bullying occur it would be dealt with by staff. Where young people have placed themselves at risk through being absent without authority, clear procedures are in place and staff liaise closely with external agencies to ensure young people return safely to the home.

Young people benefit from clear expectations and routines which support them to develop socially acceptable behaviour. One said 'the rules here are fair'. Staff are experienced at responding appropriately to challenging behaviours, and measures are in place to reward positive behaviour. Where young people do not comply with expectations of behaviour sanctions are used appropriately. Physical interventions take place where it is necessary to intervene to prevent young people hurting themselves or others. There has been an increase in the incidence of absence without authority, challenging behaviour and physical interventions in recent weeks and staff have responded effectively to meet the needs of the young people and keep them safe. Sanctions and physical interventions are recorded in detail and cross-reference accurately with other documentation.

Young people are protected by effective health and safety procedures which are monitored regularly. Young people are familiar with fire evacuation procedures. Risk assessments are carried out for individual young people and specific activities. Risk assessments are monitored and updated regularly.

There are effective procedures in place to ensure that staff are thoroughly checked. Visitors to the home are vetted to ensure the safety of 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 good.

The manager of the home has submitted an application for registration with Ofsted. The manager is offering effective leadership; the recommendation at the previous inspection to sign and date risk assessments for the home has been implemented.

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.