

Inspection report for Children's Home

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Inspector	Diana Waters
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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 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 children's home is a semi-detached Victorian house, situated close to the centre of a small town. The home is registered for five young people and currently accommodates three teenage girls. The home provides individual support and preparation for independent living and offers an outreach service to support young people who have moved locally. The home offers a range of educational provision which includes individual tuition. The home aims to provide a range of emotional and behavioural support to vulnerable young people to prepare them for independent living.

Summary

The overall quality rating is good.

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

This report follows an unannounced interim inspection to the home. Since the last inspection two young people have been admitted and subsequently moved out. One member of staff has been appropriately recruited. The home continues to provide a safe environment for the young people to develop their independence and skills. One recommendation to continue to source suitable window restrictors for the first and second floor bedrooms remains.

Improvements since the last inspection

Three recommendations were made at the last inspection. The staff sleeping in room has been reinstated. The boiler has been replaced and refurbishment of the home continues. Sourcing appropriate first and second floor window restrictors continue to be problematic, however, these rooms are risk assessed.

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.

Case files are securely stored. Young people's privacy is respected and information is confidentially handled.

Young people confirm they know how to raise concerns both internally and externally. External complaints have been satisfactorily addressed.

Child protection training is provided at induction and the staff are well informed and take appropriate action to safeguard the welfare of young people. The home has a positive relationship with the local police.

Bullying is not reported to be a serious problem. Staff are aware of the changeable group dynamics and appropriately address concerns.

Current absconding rates are low; these have reduced since June 2010. Staff communicate well with other agencies and provide a consistently supportive response to young people when they are missing.

Young people are encouraged to behave in a socially-acceptable way and are encouraged to discuss and negotiate solutions. Sanctions are recorded. No restraints have been used in the home.

Several young people previously resident at the home have been successfully supported into independence. Their occasional visits provide positive role models, encourage hope for the current residents own future, and demonstrate the ongoing support available.

The home provides a comfortable domestic-style environment. Safety systems are tested regularly, risk assessments are undertaken and monitored. However, first and second floor window restrictors are still to be fitted.

One member of staff has been recruited since the last inspection. Recruitment checks ensure young people are adequately protected.

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?

Recommendations

To improve the quality and standards of care further the registered person should take account of the following recommendation(s):

- continue to review and resource suitable restrictors for first and second floor windows. (NMS 24)