

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC018238
Inspection date	17 November 2009
Inspector	Debbie Foster
Type of Inspection	Random

Date of last inspection	12 June 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 home provides a single occupancy placement to young people aged 11 to 17 years who have a history of placement breakdowns, emotional and/or behavioural problems.

This is a domestic dwelling, with a kitchen, dining lounge, two single bedrooms, one of which has an en-suite, a bathroom and an office.

It is situated near to local shops, schools, health, leisure and employment facilities. There is a bus route servicing the local area and the town centre, which is three miles away.

Summary

This was an unannounced interim inspection focusing upon national minimum standards relating to keeping children and young people safe. The one action and four recommendations made on the last inspection in June 2009 were checked to see they had been implemented.

Good safeguarding measures are in place to support young people and ensure they are kept safe. This has been achieved through staff being well-trained in safety areas. Staff have built good relationships with young people and other supporting agencies to support their behaviour. There is a positive approach to managing behaviour, where clear boundaries, incentives and rewards are set with young people, which staff implement consistently.

Young people were part of the inspection process.

The overall quality rating is good.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

The following action and recommendations have been implemented since the last inspection: young people have a plan of care that has been provided by the placing authority to give information on how the young people are to be cared for; personal education plans are in place which set out the young person's educational attainment to date and the areas of support and development to assist in planning for their future education or employment; care reviews have taken place to assist in monitoring the progress of young people; and pathway plans are in place to assist and support the young people in preparing for independence and adulthood.

The following recommendation is still to be implemented: the staff team are still to achieve the minimum ratio of 80% of all the care team completing their National Vocational Qualification at level 3 in Caring for Children and Young People. Progress is being made in this area; five staff have completed it, a further two are undertaking the qualification and one new member of staff is to commence the qualification after completing their induction.

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.

Staff spoke to young people with respect and courtesy. Young people have the privacy of their own bedroom and have a key to their bedroom door. Records are securely stored and information is confidentially handled.

The home has received no complaints since the last inspection. The records show that prompt action has been taken to resolve previous complaints and the outcome recorded. Young people are aware of the complaints procedure. This indicates that complaints are taken seriously.

Clear procedures and measures are in place to try keep young people safe that promote their welfare. All staff have received safeguarding training and are aware of the procedures. The procedures are available for staff to refer to and use.

There is a policy and procedure in place on how to deal with bullying. Staff are aware of how to deal with bullying situations. Staff and young people said there is no bullying occurring in the home or in the community currently. Therefore, young people are protected from bullying, through the home's policies, procedures and the practice of the staff.

There are clear individual protocols for young people which staff follow in the event of a young person going missing. Work continues with young people when they return, to try and ensure their future safety. The home also has links with other agencies to support young people who go missing. Young people are aware of the circumstances when they will be reported missing. There have been three occasions when young people have been reported since the last inspection, which is minimal.

Staff give importance to managing behaviour positively. This is to support young people behaving in a socially acceptable way. Staff's approach to caring for young people is to have clear boundaries which they implement consistently as a team. Young people are involved in the decision-making process to determine the rewards and the incentives put in place for them. Young people are responding well to this approach and continue to make significant progress in this area. A young person said staff are fair and they get on with them all.

The sanctions and restraint records include the required information. Few sanctions have been given and no physical interventions have taken place since the last inspection.

Fire records indicate that there are frequent checks on the system, the staff have received fire instruction, and training and drills are in line with policy and procedures. Young people are aware of the fire procedures.

Risk assessments are in place, which cover the relevant areas, with good detail on how the supporting safety measures will be implemented with young people to keep them safe. Staff are aware of the safety measures in place and have received training in all mandatory areas. These include first aid, food hygiene, medication, and health and safety. Therefore, young people's safety is promoted well through the practices and support from staff.

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 that the minimum ratio of 80% of all care staff complete their National Vocational Qualification at level 3 in Caring for Children and Young People. (NMS 29)