

Inspection report for Children's Home

Unique reference number	SC018238
Inspection date	25/01/2011
Inspector	Debbie Foster
Type of inspection	Random

Date of last inspection	30/06/2010
--------------------------------	------------

© Crown copyright 2011

Website: www.ofsted.gov.uk

This document may be reproduced in whole or in part for non-commercial educational purposes, provided that the information quoted is reproduced without adaptation and the source and date of publication are stated.

You can obtain copies of The Children Act 2004, Every Child Matters and The National Minimum Standards for Children's Services from: The Stationery Office (TSO) PO Box 29, St Crispins, Duke Street, Norwich, NR3 1GN. Tel: 0870 600 5522. Online ordering: www.tso.co.uk/bookshop

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

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

The overall quality rating is good.

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

This was an unannounced interim inspection. Matters looked at during this visit relate to the outcome of staying safe and the action and recommendations made at the last inspection.

Those young people living in the home receive a good standard of care and well looked after. Staff have a good understanding of the individual care needs of young people.

Keeping young people safe from harm is of high importance and there are effective safeguarding practices in place to protect young people. Stringent and detailed safety measures keep young people safe.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the registered person was asked to address areas relating to being healthy and positive contribution. Full medical assessments have been undertaken for each young person and records kept. The record of food includes the fruit and vegetables provided to young people as part of a balanced diet. The care plan includes the aims to support young people, relating to the promotion of independence skills. The records detail the progress being made by young people in developing these skills.

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.

Stringent measures are in place to keep young people safe and to promote their welfare.

Young people's privacy is respected appropriately. A young person said that they can spend time in their bedroom when they wish and have a key for their room. This gives them control over their private space. Records are stored appropriately to maintain good levels of confidentiality.

The young people are aware of the complaints procedure and staff support young people to complain where this is needed. The home has received one complaint since the last inspection. Prompt action has been taken to resolve the complaint and the outcome recorded. Therefore, concerns are taken seriously.

Safeguarding procedures are in place and available for staff to refer to and use. All staff have received safeguarding training and they receive an annual refresher in child protection. Staff are clear on the procedures to follow to safeguard young people.

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

There are good measures in place to manage unauthorised absence. Individualised risk assessments for young people give good guidance for the staff to follow in such events. There have been no incidents where young people have gone missing from the last inspection. Young people are clear about when they will be reported missing.

Managing behaviour positively continues to be a high priority in the home. This is promoted and encouraged consistently by the staff team. It is achieved by staff having clear boundaries, incentives and rewards in place to support young people's positive behaviour.

Young people are involved in the decision making process. They determine their weekly plans, rewards and the incentives. This influences the success of this approach. Young people are responding well and behave well. A young person said they get on with all the staff.

The sanctions and restraint records record the required information. Young people commented that the staff are fair and few sanctions are given. Staff confirmed physical intervention is used as a last resort to manage behaviour which puts a young person at risk of hurting themselves or others. No young person has been restrained since the last inspection.

The safety and welfare of young people is well protected by the home's risk management practices. Staff are knowledgeable about the risks to individual young people. Good written risk assessments set out the action to be taken by the staff to minimise the risk to young people during their known and likely activities. However, not all external professional assessments have been completed in a timely fashion. These delays are impacting on the ways staff have to manage and structure the risks identified for individual young people. Therefore, the staff are unable to support young people in making positive steps forward in this area.

Thorough fire safety practices are in place to protect young people. The fire safety check records are up to date. All staff and young people have been involved in a number of fire drills to ensure that they are aware of the procedure to be followed in case of fire in the home. All staff working have received up-to-date fire safety training to assist them in minimising the risks to young people in the event of a fire at the home.

There are robust vetting and recruitment procedures for staff in place to ensure young people are prevented from being cared for by unsuitable staff. The organisation undertakes the required and relevant checks on the staff recruited. This includes the Criminal Record Bureau (CRB) check, references from the previous employer and having a full employment history of the worker. In addition, declarations are obtained from staff to ensure they have not been disqualified from caring for children.

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):

- ensure all outside agencies undertake identified work and assessments with young people in a timely fashion to enable young people in making progress within their lives. In particular to areas of identified risk and the support and care required to reduce or eliminate the risks identified. (NMS 26, 12 & 2)