

Inspection report for Children's Home

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Inspector	Jacqui Gosling
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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 home operates a service for up to five male young people. The home provides a specialist service to young people who have a range of complex needs and who can present significant risks to themselves and others. Young people have exclusive access to a registered school that is also managed by the organisation. The home is located close to several town centres with public transport facilities and local amenities close by. Currently, three young people are residing here.

Summary

The overall quality rating is outstanding.

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

This was an unannounced interim inspection that looked at key standards under the staying safe outcome area and the recommendations made following the last inspection. One young person participated in the inspection process.

Young people are clearly benefiting from a service that has an outstanding focus on safeguarding and protection matters. Operational policies, procedures and staff guidance are used effectively to promote everybody's safety and welfare. Young people are frequently and consistently engaged by staff in how to keep themselves and others safe. Young people benefit from living in a home where there are excellent arrangements in place to ensure staff are trained and well informed about effective safeguarding practices.

One good practice recommendation made during the key inspection remains partially unmet.

Improvements since the last inspection

Three recommendations were made during the key inspection that took place in September 2010. The staff have been proactive in requesting local authorities provide required paperwork.

The staff have now obtained and retain on file prior written permission from the person with parental responsibility for the administration of first aid for all young people. This ensures any health needs can be met promptly.

All young people now have an up to date copy of their personal education plan on file.

Placing social workers have now provided most of the required looked after child paperwork. However, some paperwork is still required, some is unsigned and,

therefore, for some young people their required paperwork does not address all their needs.

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.

The home provides an environment that is safe and secure and which provides excellent arrangements for the promotion, protection and care of young people. There is a range of policies and procedures to promote their safety and welfare.

Systems are in place to help protect young people from bullying and unauthorised absences. Due to the level of staffing and supervision young people say, unauthorised absences and bullying behaviour is not an issue within the home.

Staff in the home are trained and competent to safeguard children and young people from abuse. Safeguarding procedures are readily available in the home for staff to access if needed. As a result young people are protected from harm and staff are able to respond to allegations or suspicions of abuse appropriately. Staff complete detailed individual and environmental risk assessments which are reviewed and updated on a monthly basis. These enable staff to be well informed about each young person in their care. These assessments also underpin the care afforded to young people ensuring safety and welfare is promoted at all times. Young people say they feel safe in the home.

Young people are further safeguarded as clear systems are in place to manage complaints. Although there have been no complaints made since the last inspection young people say they know how to complain if they are unhappy about something. Staff have developed a complaints document in alternate languages. This is an excellent tool to gain young people's views, to aid communication and give young people meaningful access to the complaints procedures.

Comprehensive behaviour management systems are in place that encourage young people to develop socially acceptable behaviour. All young people have a 24 hour management plan in place, which is in line with the management strategies used in their school, which is part of the same organisation. This ensures consistency with regards to managing the young people's behaviour and avoids unnecessary stress or anxiety.

All staff receive training in de-escalation techniques and physical intervention although emphasis is placed on rewarding positive behaviours. Staff develop highly supportive, respectful relationships with young people. They engage and encourage

the young people to behave in an acceptable way through positive reinforcement. As a consequence there has been very little use of physical intervention or measures of control in the home since the last inspection.

There are effective systems in place to maintain good standards of health and safety within the home. These ensure young people live in a home where their health and safety is fully protected. Risk assessments are completed and regularly reviewed in relation to fire and potential environmental hazards. All the fire systems are tested regularly and fire evacuation drills are undertaken in excess of requirements. Staff recruitment records are well organised and clear. New staff do not commence employment in the home until all the relevant checks have been carried out.

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 that the young people's looked after child documentation from their placing authority is complete, specifically, ensure placement plans part 2 are signed by the person with parental responsibility and all other persons

accommodating the young people. (NMS 2.1)