

Inspection report for Children's Home

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Inspector	Trevor Hall
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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

This children's home provides care and accommodation for up to three young persons of either gender aged eight up to the age of 17 years. The home is owned by a private childcare organisation.

The home is located in a quiet rural village. Accommodation is provided in a well-appointed detached family house. This provides young people with individual bedrooms and ample communal space. The home's positioning on the outskirts of the a large town facilitates easy access to schools and a wide variety of recreational, social and sporting activities. There are three young people currently living at the home. All were present throughout this inspection and contributed to the findings in this report.

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 that concentrated on key national minimum standards in the every child matters area of staying safe. Three young people were living at the home, none were present during the inspection. No new actions or recommendations have been raised following this inspection.

The overall judgement for this service remains good. Young people are being looked after by a competent well-trained team of staff. The Registered Manager provides strong and consistent leadership that is focused on meeting young people's needs. Young people live in a very stable home and they are fully consulted about their day-to-day care and support. Staff relationships with young people are both caring and very supportive. Young people benefit from living in a home that is well managed and organised to achieve good outcomes.

Improvements since the last inspection

Since the home's last inspection the recording of medication has improved, with the record indicating that the home's medication policy has been fully followed on each and every occasion. The home's record of physical restraint now clearly indicates whether the young person has received any injury during restraint and whether or not they wish to seek medical attention.

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.

Young people live a stable and safe environment that successfully promotes and protects their welfare. The Registered Manager and staff team demonstrate a high degree of responsibility and accountability for the safeguarding arrangements within the home. There are very clear procedures in place for responding to any child protection or safe care concerns and these arrangements are reinforced by induction and refresher training for all staff in a number of key practice areas. All staff learn about what constitutes a child protection concern and who to report it to, they learn about the necessary skills needed to manage challenging behaviour positively and safely. Young people are very safe and treated fairly.

Staff respect young people's right to privacy and have good policies that indicate when it is permissible for staff to search young people's bedrooms. Good records of these searches are maintained, that include a list of items removed, they also make it clear if the young person was present during the search and if not they detail the reason why.

Further positive steps are taken by the home to ensure safeguarding arrangements are robust and relevant to each young person's circumstances. Young people are discouraged from being away from the home without permission and staff use effective reporting systems to help reduce the possible risks associated with this kind of behaviour.

Staff are vigilant with regard to all relationships and take action if bullying is suspected. The home's records comprehensively evidence that staff engage with young people frequently about matters that relate to their behaviour and conduct. There is a positive approach taken by staff, they are clear about social and behavioural boundaries that are expected, but equally they are clear about each young person's needs and how they learn about what is and is not acceptable. As a result, staff are patient and mindful of their responsibilities to educate and focus on acceptable and improving behaviours that can be rewarded and praised.

Young people's protection is also very well promoted through safe recruitment, selection and vetting practices for all new staff. The service has a clearly defined system in place that ensures all necessary checks have been completed and are acceptable prior to any new staff member starting work in the home.

Staff listen to what young people have to say and this creates an atmosphere where any complaints or concerns are acted upon quickly. Young people have confidence in

the home's ability to resolve any complaints or concerns that they may have. Listening to young people is a key feature of how the home keeps everyone safe.

Safe procedures are in place to protect young people from fire and prevention systems are regularly tested and serviced. Staff and young people undertake fire drills in excess of what is required. Regular servicing and maintenance is completed on all gas and electrical equipment. Certificates of public and employer liability insurance are displayed as required and all certificates and health and safety records are up-to-date and well maintained. Young people's home environment is monitored well and is very safe.

Young people's protection is also very well promoted through safe recruitment, selection and vetting practices for all new staff. The service has a clearly defined system in place that ensures all necessary checks have been completed and are acceptable prior to any new staff member starting work in the home. Visits to the home are appropriately vetted, prior to admission to the home.

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.