

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC020606
Inspection date	21 January 2010
Inspector	Trevor Hall
Type of Inspection	Random

Date of last inspection	1 July 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 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 village in rural Shropshire. Accommodation is provided in well-appointed detached family house. This provides young people with individual bedrooms and ample communal space. The home's positioning on the rural outskirts of the a large town facilitates easy access to schools and a wide variety of recreational, social and sporting activities.

Summary

This was an unannounced random inspection that concentrated on checking all key national minimum standards (NMS), under the 'Every Child Matters' area of staying safe. The home's last key inspection took place on 7 July 2009 when no actions or recommendations were made. Three young people are currently living in the home.

This inspection confirmed that this home continues to be extremely well managed and young people benefit from living in an environment that is centred on meeting their individual needs. The home has well established regimes in place for the effective assessment of risk and staff take all reasonable precautions to ensure that young people, staff and visitors are safe at all times. The overall judgement for the home on this inspection remains outstanding.

The overall quality rating is outstanding.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

No actions or recommendations have been made in respect of this service.

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 promotion of welfare and safety with the home is outstanding. Young people are encouraged to express any anxieties or concerns and their views and opinions are respected. The welfare and safety of young people is promoted by the company policy and procedures and the home's established systems for keeping young people safe. The stability of the home, promoted by a considered admission practice and stable core staff team, enhance the way in which young people can be protected. Staff receive ongoing training in child protection and behaviour management that helps underpin safe day-to-day practice.

Young people's privacy and confidentiality are promoted by sound guidance and good staff practice. Staff ensure that they do not enter young people's rooms without knocking. Young people's care records are maintained securely and contents are not discussed inappropriately. Staff are aware of the young people's right to privacy and how this may be safely promoted.

The young people living at this home are aware of the reason they are being looked after and how staff will promote their safety and protection within the home and in public places. Staff are fully aware of the types of behaviour which young people may display and accordingly develop risk assessments that minimise the potential for young people to subject themselves or others to harm. Staff know how to respond to challenging behaviours and in circumstances where young people may go absent without authority. Young people are encouraged to reflect on the consequences of their behaviour after such incidents to learn how to help themselves to be safe and behave responsibly.

Young people are encouraged and supported by their carers to behave in ways that will help prepare them to return home or move into independence. Staff help young people identify and maintain safe behavioural boundaries that will help their reintegration and personal development. Young people confirm that staff help them address their problems and behaviour.

Staff working at the young people's home take positive steps to keep young people and visitors safe from all environmental hazards including fire. For example, risk assessments on the environment are completed and updated on a regular basis and staff within the home are all involved in these routines to ensure that health and safety is promoted by everyone. Portable appliance testing for electrical safety has been done on all equipment in the home and all safety equipment has been serviced with approved regularity and is properly maintained. Frequent checks are undertaken on fire equipment, emergency lighting and fire drills are regularly completed. The Registered Manager ensures that utilities, domestic equipment and vehicles are checked to ensure they are safe to use. Young people live in a home which provides physical safety and security. This home does take the safety and welfare of the residents seriously and young people do live in a home which is both physically safe and secure.

The home has robust procedures in place for the monitoring of visitors to the home. The organisation that owns this home has a clearly defined recruitment process which protects young people by ensuring that all of the national minimum standards requirements are met, in all instances, prior to any staff member being deployed into the home. A written record of this process is maintained for inspection and is followed in respect of all staff currently employed.

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 Childrens 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

There are no recommendations.