

Inspection report for Children's Home

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Inspector	Sophie Wood
Type of inspection	Random

Date of last inspection	14/10/2010
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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 is a large detached house with a walled rear garden, situated in a residential area. It is within walking distance of the local shops, railway station, cinema and the beach.

The home provides care and accommodation for up to eight young people, of either gender, aged between 11 and 17 years. There are many areas for quiet relaxation, games, television and computers within the house. Six young people currently live in the home.

Summary

The overall quality rating is satisfactory.

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

This unannounced, interim inspection looked at all of the standards under the staying safe outcome area. The six actions and eight recommendations made from the previous visit were also followed up and positive outcomes are noted within the text of this report, as a result of the findings.

Six young people are currently living in the home and two engaged very positively with this inspection. No concerns are reported by those interviewed; young people present as being settled and they are appreciative of the guidance and support they receive from the staff team.

Steady improvements have been made as a direct result of the previous visit; the Registered Manager is open and transparent, as is the responsible individual, who actively participated with this inspection.

No actions or recommendations have been made as a result of this visit.

Improvements since the last inspection

Six actions and eight recommendations were made from the previous inspection of 14 October 2010. The home is demonstrating steady progress in implementing these, resulting in improved outcomes for young people.

Health files have been reviewed and updated; clearer information ensures improved health care. Complaints guidance has been amended; specifically by introducing an improved procedure for completing such investigations. Young people are assured of receiving a robust approach. A new format for the recording of physical interventions offers greater clarity and ensures all of the required elements are completed within the log book. Thus, young people are better protected. An improved fire risk assessment provides the home with explicit details and guidance. A heightened awareness increases safeguards for young people. Staff induction and supervision records hold clearer details, as do Regulation 33 reports and these changes

encourage a clearer management focus, which is directed at improving the services for young people.

The home was asked to review the arrangements for locking the larder door and this is currently being piloted to allow young people greater freedom in terms of preparing their own snacks and drinks. Individual health histories have been updated; hence, young people are better informed about their own immunisations and past medical interventions. Records pertaining to physical interventions and leaving the home without authority now have greater detail and clarity. This aspect encourages staff to engage in reflective practice and this positively impacts upon service delivery. Policy guidance, including recruitment and handling confidential information continues to be reviewed, as was recommended, and the format for placement plans is now much clearer and therefore easier to track.

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is not judged.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Young people confirm the good practice of staff which ensures their privacy is protected and respected. The physical layout of the home promotes this by way of bathrooms being located close to bedrooms; staff and visitors have their own facilities. Young people confirm that staff always knock on their bedroom doors before requesting entry and they also appreciate that they can lock their own doors if they wish. Policy guidance is clear and serves to protect confidential information. Records and files are held securely and the home has a sufficient number of rooms for meetings and discussions to be held in private.

No formal complaints have been made since the previous visit. Young people attribute this to successful informal resolution, 'I just tell the staff if something has upset me and it gets sorted'. Additional discussions with young people demonstrates that they know how to contact external agencies should they be dissatisfied with the home's own processes.

Clear safeguarding policy and guidance serves to protect young people against potential sources of harm. Staff know how to report concerns and they do this swiftly. Staff are provided with the training and guidance they need to ensure the continued protection of young people. They work hard to teach young people to keep themselves safe by providing appropriate, sound advice.

Young people have no concerns with regards to bullying within the home. They confirm that arguments do occur, but that these are effectively settled through staff intervention. Training for staff is routinely refreshed and individual risk assessments

describe each young person's potential vulnerability.

Three absences are recorded since the previous inspection. Each is clearly documented, demonstrating a proactive approach to return young people home as quickly and safely as possible. Young people confirm the positive and supportive responses they receive from the staff and such instances are being robustly monitored.

Young people enjoy positive relationships with the staff team. They confirm that the use of sanctions are appropriate and evenly delivered. Written records support this view; consequences are appropriate to the behaviour and all such instances are robustly monitored. Staff continue to receive accredited training with regards to the use of physical restraint techniques. Such use is rare and written records demonstrate improving reflective practice.

The home provides a safe and secure physical environment. Fire safety is taken seriously; young people know, and routinely practise the fire evacuation procedure. Good quality furnishings provide a comfortable environment and maintenance issues are swiftly reported and remedied.

Young people are suitably protected through sound recruitment processes. No new staff have joined since the previous inspection; however, the policy and procedure is robust. Visitors are required to show evidence of their identity and they are suitably supervised when they visit 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.

