

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC023736
Inspection date	23 March 2010
Inspector	Mark Blesky
Type of Inspection	Random

Date of last inspection	19 November 2009
--------------------------------	------------------

© Crown copyright 2010

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 Cripins, 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 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 service is a children's home for three young people who are aged between 10 and under 18 years old. The home is in a residential street in the seaside town within easy reach of local shops, amenities, the cinema, beach and public transport. The home has the appearance of a large family home and it is decorated and furnished to reflect this. One young person was present at the time of the inspection.

Summary

This interim, unannounced inspection looked at the standards of staying safe. There are no requirements or recommendations previously made under this standard. Being healthy, enjoying and achieving, positive contribution, economic wellbeing and organisation were not looked at during this inspection. Staying safe is judged as outstanding, however, the overall finding includes reference to the last key inspection and, therefore, the overall finding remains as good.

The overall quality rating is good.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

There were no requirements or recommendations made at the last inspection.

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 are treated with respect and staff ensure that privacy and confidentiality is maintained. All information regarding young people is kept securely and staff ensure that any sensitive conversations with young people are held in private. Staff knock on bedroom doors before entering, and are aware of the need to be sensitive regarding matters, such as dressing and washing. A private telephone is available for young people to use and staff will ensure writing and postage materials are available. Detailed and comprehensive guidance is made available for all staff.

Young people are well supported if they wish to make a complaint or representation. All complaints are very detailed and the procedure ensures that young people are kept informed of the complaints progress. If young people are dissatisfied following conclusion of the complaint they are supported to make further representation. Young people's satisfaction is the focus of this procedure.

Young people are protected by robust, well-managed, safeguarding and child protection procedures. The safeguarding co-ordinator is very experienced and is supported by both out-of-hours and on call services. All staff are appropriately trained in matters of safeguarding and the home's procedure mirrors that of the local authority.

The home maintains anti-bullying procedures and practice to ensure that young people are adequately protected from bullying. Practice demonstrates that staff are vigilant in this area

and suspected bullying is also recorded. The manager oversees all incidents of suspected bullying and this is a regular topic of young people's meetings and staff meetings.

When young people are absent from the home without authority, the home deploys rigorous support procedures that include the searching, reporting, and recovery of the young person. When young people have more frequent or concerning periods of absence, the home arranges a return home interview. This is carried out by an independent staff member and seeks to establish all the circumstances that led to the absence. Any reasons given for the absence are collated to consider countering strategies to minimise further periods of absence.

Young people are supported by clear guidance on behaving constructively and staff will engage with them to support them. Key working, one-to-one time, and children's meetings are also used to reinforce good behaviour. Approved sanctions are available for staff to use. However, staff will typically try and discuss poor behaviour with the young person and seek to resolve difficulties amicably. When sanctions are used, they are measured and proportionate and the manager oversees all sanctions.

Health and safety, and fire safety are well managed. Regular risks assessment of the building and of the young people are carried out. Risk assessments are of very good standard and these consider both situational and environmental factors of the home along with the young people's behaviour. Maintenance is managed successfully and the building is free from avoidable hazards.

All staff members are appropriately vetted and all statutory checks and employment checks are carried out. The home has a dedicated employment panel with many years of experience, and recruitment is well organised and rigorous. Young people in the home are safeguarded by the well-managed vetting of the visitors. All visitors must identify themselves before they can enter the home and no visitor is allowed unsupervised access to the young people or building.

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
----------	--------	----------

Recommendations

There are no recommendations.