

Inspection report for Children's Home

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Inspector	Mark Blesky
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Date of last inspection	22/10/2010
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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

This service is a children's home for up to three young people aged between 10 and 17-years-old. The home is in a residential street in a seaside town within easy reach of local shops, amenities, cinema, the beach and public transport. The home has the appearance of a large family home and it is decorated and furnished to reflect this.

Summary

The overall quality rating is good.

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

This interim inspection looked at the outcome area of staying safe and the progress the setting has made with the recommendations made at the last inspection in October 2010. These related to improvements to young people's reviews and the planning for young people's independency. The provision has taken appropriate action to resolve previous recommendations.

Improvements since the last inspection

There were no actions arising from the last inspection. Two recommendations were made and the manager was asked to ensure that statutory reviews are appropriately managed and that young people are supported with independency planning.

Reviews are in place for all the young people and review information is being used effectively to follow the care planning. All young people that have reached the appropriate age are supported by effective independency planning. The registered person has taken appropriate steps to improve the quality of the home for young people.

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 benefit from being supported to enjoy privacy and confidentiality. Staff ensure that as well as the good procedures being followed in this area, that young people also understand their rights and can express themselves confidently. Staff

knock on bedroom doors and await invitation and young people's private possessions are treated respectfully. A private telephone is available for young people to use and there are areas in the home where young people can meet their friends and family. Staff are particularly sensitive to young people's privacy at times of washing and dressing.

All complaints are rigorously investigated and the young person is consulted throughout the complaint investigation. The home's procedures seek to empower the young person to make representation or complaint and all staff receive training in this area. All complaints are recorded and the young person can make further representation if he or she wishes to raise issues regarding the manner in which the investigation was addressed.

The robust safeguarding procedures and practice provide young people with appropriate support in the event that any matter of this nature arises. All staff undertake mandatory training in this essential area with regular refresher training provided. The home has a dedicated safeguarding co-ordinator who has a wealth of experience and knowledge in this area. An out of hours and on call service is also available to offer advice or practical support in more urgent situations. Safeguarding procedures mirror the principles of the local authority's guidance.

Good anti-bullying guidance and procedures are in place to address any matter of bullying. In addition, staff receive training and guidance in this area to ensure that are able to identify signs and symptoms before bullying has an opportunity to develop.

When young people are missing from the home rigorous procedures are deployed to search, report and return the young person to the home. Protocols of agreement have been agreed with the local police and effective arrangements are in place. All young people have a detailed and comprehensive risk assessment regarding absence from the home.

Young people are encouraged to behave positively and relationships between young people and staff reinforce this principle. The home seeks to negotiate and encourage good behaviour and does not favour resolutions that are more punitive. If encouragement is not effective or appropriate, the staff may use approved sanctions to modify the more extreme behaviours. Records of all sanctions and physical interventions are robust and very well managed.

Risk assessments are in place for all young people and these cover all known areas of risk. Assessments are insightful and generally include consideration of the impact of behaviour on the environment and situations, which may impact on risk. This has resulted in very comprehensive and detailed risk assessments being put into place. The home maintains well managed fire risk assessments and health and safety risk assessments. All young people take part in fire evacuation drills and the home maintains a robust maintenance programme.

The home employs all staff through their own recruitment panel and no staff

member is able to begin work until all references and statutory checks have been completed. All visitors to the home are monitored very well and all visitors must identify themselves and sign in and out of the building. No visitor is permitted to have unsupervised access to the home or young people.

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.