

Inspection report for Children's Home

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Inspector	Mark Blesky
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Date of last inspection	20/09/2010
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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 children's home can accommodate up to three young people, aged between 12 and under 18 years. The home is in a residential area near a seaside town, with amenities for the young people close by.

Summary

The overall quality rating is good.

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

This unannounced interim inspection looked at the outcome area for staying safe plus the progress the setting has made relating to the actions and recommendations raised at the last inspection in September 2010. These related to improvements in maintaining information and planning for education along with improving cleaning schedules in the home. The registered person was also asked to maintain training for all staff to reach the in accordance with the national minimum standards. The provision has taken appropriate action to resolve these issues.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection in September 2011, one action was made. This required the registered person to ensure that information specified in Schedule 3 in respect of each child was kept and maintained by the home. Information and records have now been reviewed. Information is now well managed and all information is kept in accordance with the national minimum standards and Schedule 3 of the Children's Homes Regulations 2001.

Recommendations were also made at the last inspection. The registered person was asked to ensure that education records and planning were managed appropriately and cleaning schedules within the home were improved. The registered person was also asked to ensure that a minimum of 80% of staff were trained to National Vocational Qualification standard at level three.

Educational planning and practices have been improved and effective and detailed planning is in place. Cleaning schedules in the home have been reviewed and robust systems of cleaning and maintenance have been established. Training for staff members is in place for all staff and current training schedules are appropriate to meet or even exceed the national minimum standards.

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is not judged.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Staff members respect young people's privacy and confidentiality. All personal records are kept securely and young people's information is not discussed in public areas of the home. Young people are provided with locks on their doors and staff will not enter bedrooms until they are invited. Staff are particularly sensitive at times of washing and dressing and ensure young people's privacy is maintained.

If young people are unhappy and express dissatisfaction, the staff will support them to resolve this. Both informal representation and more formal complaints procedures are in place and staff are prompt to address such matters. If a formal complaint is made the staff ensure that the young person is kept abreast of all actions taken and consulted at the point of resolution.

All matters of safeguarding are overseen by the safeguarding co-ordinator, who has a wealth of experience in these areas. Any suspected safeguarding matter is referred promptly to the local authority and the appropriate action is taken. All staff are aware of the procedures and receive mandatory training in this important area. Young people are supported by well managed procedures and practice.

Young people are protected from bullying and intimidation by close levels of supervision and established anti-bullying practices. A procedure is in place, which is both proactive, and based on a risk assessment of each young person; this also includes support systems should bullying occur. Young people are supported by these systems and all staff are prompt to act if they become aware of any signs or symptoms of bullying.

Absence without permission and episodes of young people going missing is uncommon in this home. If any young person is absent without permission the home deploys effective procedures to search, report and return the young person. Missing person protocols have been agreed with the local police and the home has additional out-of-hours and on-call support in situations that are more urgent.

When young people behaviour in a less positive manner, staff will try and engage with them to encourage improved behaviour. Support in this area is strong and maintained through established close relationships. All young people have plans, which detail behaviour management, and staff will try to encourage young people to take responsibility for improving behaviour. Young people are, therefore, able to make informed decisions and given choices and options regarding their conduct. If behaviour is more extreme or concerning, the staff are able to use a range of

approved sanctions to manage this. Behaviour control is not overly punitive and staff are generally successful in supporting young people to act responsibly.

Young people are safeguarded by well-maintained and comprehensive health and safety and fire risk assessments, which are regularly reviewed. All young people are also risk assessed in relations to both current and more historic behaviours. Risk assessments are very detailed and consider how young people's actions and behaviour may impact on environmental risks inside and outside of the home. Young people benefit from staff members' awareness of risk and the subsequent action taken by the registered person to reduce risk.

All staff members are recruited through experienced and established interview panels. All staff members are subject to both statutory checks and reference checks before they are able to work with the young people. All visitors to the home must identify themselves and sign in and out of the building. No visitor is permitted to have unsupervised access to the young people or the 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.