

Inspection report for Children's Home

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Inspector	Mark Blesky
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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 is a children's home registered to care for up to three children. The home is situated near a seaside town and is close to shops, local amenities and the beach. The home is in a residential area with little to distinguish the home from any other nearby property.

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 progress the setting has made with the requirements and recommendations made at the last inspection in July 2010. These related to the provision of procedural guidance and areas of risk assessment. The areas staying safe, enjoying and achieving and economic wellbeing were inspected. The provision has taken appropriate action to resolve the previous requirement.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection in July 2010, an action was set to ensure that risk assessment was adequately carried out. Recommendations were also made to areas where improvement was needed to procedures and guidance for staff. Risk assessments have now been completed and the current assessments are insightful and comprehensive. Procedures and guidance for staff has been reviewed and this has addressed shortfalls in documents. The registered person has taken appropriate action to address the actions and recommendations from 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 good.

Young people's privacy and rights to confidentiality are respected by all staff and the home maintains policies and procedures to guide staff practice in this area. Case records and sensitive information is kept privately and staff ensure that young people's information is not discussed publically. Staff are sensitive to young people's

privacy and all staff knock on bedroom doors before entering.

Young people are supported by effective and well managed complaints procedures. When a young person wishes to complain detailed recording of all enquiries is undertaken and the young person is kept abreast of all matters until resolution. Young people are able to make further representation if they are dissatisfied with the manner in which the complaint was addressed.

Comprehensive safeguarding and child protection procedures are in place to protect the young people. All staff undertake mandatory training and the home has a dedicated safeguarding officer with many years of experience. Safeguarding procedures are provided to all staff members and these mirror the principles of the local authority. Anti-bullying procedures are also in place and any case of suspected bullying is recorded in a separate dedicated document, which is overseen by the manager. All staff are trained to support any young person that is experiencing bullying and young people benefit from the home's zero tolerance towards this type of behaviour.

Young people are protected from harm when they are missing or absent from the home. Rigorous missing person procedures and practice ensures that searching, reporting and return of the young person is effectively managed. Risk assessments have been carried out for all young people, to enable all appropriate safeguards are undertaken.

When young people behave in a less positive manner or do not follow the homes rules, staff will attempt to engage with the young people and discourage this. Relationships between the staff and the young people are such that co-operation and agreement is typically effective. When young people will not modify behaviour, staff will consider and may use a range of approved and known sanctions.

All young people are protected from risk by staff that understand their needs and through effective and insightful risk assessment. All young people are assessed for risk both in relation to their behaviour and in relation to the impact this may have on their environment. This provides a useful context for all assessments and enables staff to allow appropriate risk taking, essential for their development, but also prevent avoidable or more inappropriate risks. Health and safety risk assessment and fire risk assessment is carried out throughout the home and regularly reviewed.

All staff are employed through formal recruitment panels and all references and statutory checks are rigorously carried out. Young people are protected by well managed supervision of visitors to the home. All visitors must be identified and no visitor is allowed unsupervised access to the home or young people.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

All young people are given individual support by staff that care about them and understand their needs. All staff receive guidance and training in supporting young people and staff are sufficiently experienced to meet the young people's needs. All young people also receive more formal one to one support from individual key working sessions.

Key working provides staff and the young people with an opportunity to meet with one another and share any views and concerns that they may have. All key working sessions are recorded in documents and some useful analysis is undertaken to develop further one to one sessions. Young people benefit from having this opportunity to express themselves and to understand the views of the staff member.

All young people are supported in their education by staff. In addition to the more general day to day support and planning specific support is provided by close liaison between the home and the schools. Equipment and staff are available to assist with homework and extra curricular studies. Each young person has a dedicated education file and records of their achievements and awards are celebrated by the home.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is not judged.

Achieving economic wellbeing

The provision is good.

Pathway planning has begun for all young people who have reached the appropriate age. Plans detail an assessment of the young person's current skills, a plan of work to be undertaken and reviewed. Plans are well managed and young people are effectively supported with learning the skills for adulthood.

The home is well maintained throughout and benefits from a regular and comprehensive maintenance programme. Young people enjoy a very pleasant home environment and furnishings and decoration are of a high standard. The home is kept and maintained with the appearance of a large family home and young people's needs are adequately met.

Organisation

The organisation is not judged.