

Inspection report for Children's Home

Unique reference number	SC023746
Inspection date	01/03/2011
Inspector	Mark Blesky
Type of inspection	Random

Date of last inspection	05/10/2010
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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 is a children's home for three boys aged between 12 and under 18 years. It is a detached house in a residential area in a seaside town. There are local parks and the beach is nearby. Local transport is within walking distance and community resources and activities are within easy reach. There are currently three young people in the home, one young person was present but declined a conversation.

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 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 existing risk assessments and complaints recording. Improvements were needed relating to educational planning and the homes guidance. Improvements were also recommended to ensure that increased numbers of trained staff members were provided by the home. The provision has taken appropriate action to resolve the previous recommendations.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection in October 2010, a number of recommendations were made. The registered person was asked to improve risk assessments and the recording of complaints. The registered person was also asked to improve planning for young people's education and review a number of the homes guidance procedures for staff. The registered person was asked to ensure that a minimum of 80% of staff are trained to National Vocational Qualification at level 3 or equivalent.

Risk assessments have been specifically reviewed and updated regarding young people's contact and the expectations of the staff when they accompany supervised contact. The complaints procedures have been improved and demonstrate robust systems of recording and process. The arrangements for young people's education have been improved and each young person has a detailed plan. Review has taken place regarding procedures and guidance for staff and periodic review will continue. Current training programmes aim to meet the national minimum standards and ensure that all staff are sufficiently trained to provide appropriate care.

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.

The staff in the home respect young people's rights to privacy and confidentiality. Procedures are in place in the home promoting the rights of the young people and all staff receive guidance in this area. If young people are dissatisfied, they are supported to make representations or more formal complaints. All complaints are treated seriously and young people are kept informed of all elements of the complaint until resolution.

Comprehensive and detailed safeguarding and child protection procedures are well maintained in the home and the home has an identified, dedicated, safeguarding co-ordinator. All staff undertake mandatory training in this important area of practice and regular refresher training and guidance is provided to all staff members. Safeguarding systems are robust and guidance for staff mirrors the principles of the local authority's procedures.

Anti-bullying procedures are in place in the home and this enables staff to be aware of episodes of suspected bullying and aware of the signs and symptoms of this type of behaviour. Young people receive support to minimise any bullying events. Systems reflect both preventative and proactive measures as well as responsive measures to support young people effectively.

When young people are missing or absent without agreement, staff deploy effective procedures to search, report and return the young person to the home. All young people engage in risk assessments of becoming missing and each young person is provided with an individual profile to manage risk and support in the event of absence.

Behaviour management systems and practice in the home encourage self-control and young people to act responsibly. Systems of behaviour management are supportive and very effective and behaviour is generally improved and sustained as a result. When young people act negatively in a manner that is more serious or concerning, staff may use a range of approved sanctions to encourage change. The acting manager oversees all sanctions and staff regularly discuss the effectiveness of care and control in the home.

Risk assessments are undertaken on a range of activities within the home. Each young person has a comprehensive risk assessment for both general day-to-day risks but also more individual and specific risks related to known and historic behaviour. Risk assessments are very detailed and well-written and provide insightful and very

useful considerations of behaviour and support.

The fire safety and health safety practices in the home are well-managed and regularly reviewed. All staff undertake mandatory training in this area and all young people are regularly involved in drills and fire evacuation practices.

All staff in the home are recruited through an established recruitment and employment panel and all statutory checks and reference checks are undertaken. All visitors to the home are carefully monitored and no visitor is permitted to have unsupervised access to the young people or 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.