

Inspection report for Children's Home

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Inspector	Martha Nethaway
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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 home is registered to accommodate up to four young people of either gender from 14 to under 18 years of age. The majority of the young people participated in the inspection visit. The service is owned by a private company. The home is a semi-detached property situated in a residential suburb.

The purpose of the home is to offer young people a service that provides semi-independent living in a supported environment. Young people are supported to gradually develop sufficient practical independent living skills and emotional maturity to move on to a more independent setting.

Summary

The overall quality rating is good.

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

This was an interim unannounced inspection that concentrated on all key national minimum standards in the outcome area of staying safe. At the previous key inspection the home was judged as achieving an overall good outcome.

The overall quality rating remains at good. The home provides a safe, stable and suitable environment for young people. Young people are encouraged to learn independent living skills and social skills so that they can make a successful transition to adulthood. Young people are benefiting because they are making more positive choices.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection no actions or recommendations were made.

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 welfare is well promoted at the home. Staff are provided with a good range of policies that specifically address staff recruitment, counteracting bullying,

unauthorised absence, complaints, behaviour management and health and safety. Staff practice is continually monitored and reviewed by the Registered Manager and the external line manager.

Young people's confidential information is preserved. This is because staff understand how to discuss personal matters with young people in private without violating confidentiality. Young people have the opportunity to make and receive calls in private.

Young people understand what to do if they feel the need to complain. This is because the home has in place, clear information about how a complaint can be made and what action can be expected. The home also has a compliments system which allows people to comment positively about the service that has made a difference for young people. For example, one social worker commented, 'There has been a high level of emotional support available to the young person and taking responsibility for her own actions and behaviour has always been promoted and encouraged.' Since the last inspection the regulator has not received any complaints about this home.

The welfare of young people is promoted. Staff are provided with a clear policy on child protection and safeguarding children and young people. The Registered Manager ensures that the staff and the home are working within locally agreed inter-agency procedures. Staff know and understand how to promote safe practice and challenge poor and unsafe practice. This is because all staff undertake regular training on child protection and safeguarding.

Young people are protected from bullying. This is because the home has a clear policy that has been updated and reviewed. All young people have a personalised risk assessment that outlines strategies for prevention and responding to incidents. Young people do not identify bullying as a problem at the home.

Young people who are absent without authority are protected in accordance with written guidance and responded to positively on return. Staff work extremely hard at the home to educate young people about how they may place themselves at risk if they go missing. When young people go missing, staff always take clear measures to trace the young person through family and friends. Staff have had some considerable success with helping to reduce incidents of young people going missing. This demonstrates that young people are learning and are changing their behaviour.

Young people are assisted to develop socially acceptable behaviour through encouragement of acceptable behaviour and constructive staff response to inappropriate behaviour. Staff are able to set and maintain consistent and understandable boundaries for young people. As a result, young people are helped to increase their self-control. All staff are trained in the use of physical intervention but this is a practice that is not used in the home. Sanctions are used occasionally to help young people learn about the consequences of their unacceptable behaviours. The use of sanctions is carefully scrutinised by the Registered Manager and external line manager.

Young people's safety and security is promoted. This is because staff are provided with good guidance on all matters related to health and safety. All young people have a personalised risk assessments which clearly state the increased risks that may pose hazards to vulnerable young people. All risk assessments are regularly reviewed and monitored as circumstances change. Young people are further protected because they are provided with good opportunities to participate in fire evacuations. This means that they know the correct steps to take in the event of an emergency.

The recruitment and selection of staff was not checked at this inspection visit. There have been no staff changes at the home. At the last inspection the home's recruitment system was checked. The company is experienced in working with the wider implications of safeguarding and how this impacts on recruitment. Young people are protected because the home has consistently robust procedures that are soundly implemented in practice.

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.