

Inspection report for Children's Home

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Inspector	Caroline Wilson
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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 caters for young people between the ages of 15 and 18 who are in the process of preparing for independence. The service can cater for up to a maximum of four young people, each having their own bedrooms and sharing the other facilities of the house. The aim of the unit is to provide a resource that recognises the placement difficulties encountered by young looked after children close to school leaving age. The unit supports the young people in their development of age-appropriate behaviour. The house is situated in a residential area and is close to good transport links and local amenities.

Summary

The overall quality rating is good.

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

This unannounced interim inspection focused on whether the actions set at the last inspection had been met as well as inspecting the standards in the outcome group, staying safe.

Improvements had been made so that young people receive a good service in relation to being healthy and staying safe. Staff showed an excellent understanding of safeguarding procedures and their role and responsibilities in relation to this. The service was also very good at ensuring that the right mix of young people are placed together to ensure that the potential for bullying is minimised.

Improvements since the last inspection

There has been great improvement under the outcome group being healthy. At the last inspection, there was not sufficient evidence that young people's good health needs had been promoted as written health care plans were not up to date, menus were not being recorded and not all young people placed were registered with a GP. These areas were reassessed and improvements have been made so that young people receive a good service in this outcome group.

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Arrangements to ensure that young people live in a healthy environment that identifies and meets their health needs are good. The home is very good at ensuring

that appointments are made to meet the physical, social and emotional needs of young people and that any outstanding issues are followed up. The home ensures that they have the relevant background information for young people to help meet these needs. Young people are registered with a general practitioner to ensure that their good health is promoted. Written health care plans identify young people's health needs and provide essential information in relation to young people, including their medical history and any specific health needs.

Young people are being prepared to live independently and as such, shop for and prepare their own meals. Support in these tasks is provided, where relevant. Staff have a clear understanding of what makes a healthy and balanced diet and encourage young people to develop healthy eating habits. Menus are planned in conjunction with young people to ensure that they are eating meals which are balanced and nutritious.

Young people's health needs are promoted by the home's procedures and staff application of procedures relating to the administration of medication. Staff have a good understanding of the home's procedures in relation to the recording of young people's medication. Written records ensure that information, such as the dosage, times and what the medication is, are clearly recorded. Staff are suitably trained in the administration of first aid so that they can provide primary health care in the event of a medical emergency.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Safeguarding processes are robust and staff have an excellent understanding of how safeguarding procedures are translated into practice. Good procedures are in place that are in accordance with relevant legislation. Safeguarding is a rolling agenda item during team meetings to ensure that staff are aware of their roles and responsibilities in promoting the welfare of young people.

Young people who are absent without authority are protected in line with local reporting procedures in relation to this. Relevant professionals are notified of any young people who are absent, in order that necessary attempts can be made to return them to safety. Young people are treated positively on their return.

The complaints procedure and related documentation has been updated to ensure that it is accessible to all young people irrespective of their age and level of understanding. There are no recorded complaints since the last inspection.

Young people's privacy is respected; staff do not enter young people's rooms unless they are invited. Young people are able to make calls in private to family and professionals using the office telephone or their personal mobile phones.

Good policies and procedures are in place which enable staff to effectively manage any incidents of bullying. Sufficient numbers of staff are on duty at any one time and

staff demonstrate that they are aware of the common characteristics of young people who bully and those who may be bullied. This enables them to swiftly intervene to ensure the well-being of young people placed. The home carefully consider which young people are placed at the unit so that likelihood of incidences of bullying are minimised.

Good systems are in place to encourage young people to develop socially acceptable behaviour. Sanctions are fair and relate to the rule that has been broken. Staff keep accurate records of any sanctions used with young people.

Young people live in a safe environment. They are protected by a range of health and safety procedures and risk assessments. Staff carry out regular health and safety checks, including fire drills and weekly fire alarm checks. Gas safety and electrical installation checks are undertaken in accordance with relevant timescales. This ensures that young people live in a home that provides physical safety and security

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.