

## Inspection report for Children's Home

---

|                                |                  |
|--------------------------------|------------------|
| <b>Unique reference number</b> | SC028868         |
| <b>Inspection date</b>         | 22/02/2011       |
| <b>Inspector</b>               | Michael Williams |
| <b>Type of inspection</b>      | Random           |

---

|                                |            |
|--------------------------------|------------|
| <b>Date of last inspection</b> | 10/08/2010 |
|--------------------------------|------------|

---

© Crown copyright 2011

Website: [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)

This document may be reproduced in whole or in part for non-commercial educational purposes, provided that the information quoted is reproduced without adaptation and the source and date of publication are stated.

You can obtain copies of The Children Act 2004, Every Child Matters and The National Minimum Standards for Children's Services from: The Stationery Office (TSO) PO Box 29, St Crispins, Duke Street, Norwich, NR3 1GN. Tel: 0870 600 5522. Online ordering: [www.tso.co.uk/bookshop](http://www.tso.co.uk/bookshop)

## 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 is one of two run by a limited company. It is a traditional detached cottage located on a rural hillside in an area of woodland. It provides care and accommodation for a maximum of four young people of either sex from eight years to 17 years old and with emotional or behavioural difficulties. At the time of this inspection, two boys and one girl were accommodated, aged 13 and 15 years old. The boys were at the home during this inspection and the inspector met and spoke with each of them.

### **Summary**

The overall quality rating is good.

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

This was an unannounced random inspection. Its focus was to follow up the actions and recommendation made at the last key inspection, in August 2010, and to re-inspect the staying safe outcome for young people. Its main findings are that the actions have been taken, the recommendation has been implemented and the staying safe outcome continues to be good. Therefore the overall quality rating continues to be good.

Good aspects of the home's practice to help young people stay safe include: the individualised care and support that it demonstrates, reflecting each young person's needs well; the respect shown for young people's privacy; safeguarding and behaviour management practice, the latter being supported by the home's psychological service; and the risk assessments completed, for both the home and the young people accommodated.

No new actions or recommendations are made to secure future improvement.

### **Improvements since the last inspection**

The last inspection required the home to revise its Statement of Purpose and to give Ofsted written notice of the change of person managing the home. It also recommended that decisions on admission to the home take into account and record the likely effects of a new admission, both for the young person themselves and the existing group of residents. Each of these improvements have been made.

The home's Statement of Purpose was updated in November 2010 and includes its new organisational structure. With the home's Registered Manager having been on maternity leave since February 2010, it names the second person who 'has been employed as the acting manager for the maternity cover.' The home's responsible

individual wrote to Ofsted in September 2010 about this change in the person managing the home. In January 2011 they requested a manager's registration pack from Ofsted, and the acting manager is now in the process of applying to become the Registered Manager of the home.

The last young person to be admitted to the home was admitted in an emergency, which is explicitly included as a function of the home in its Statement of Purpose. This young person was still able to move into the home in a planned and sensitive manner. The home's manager completed a 'client compatibility risk assessment' on the day of their admission and an initial risk assessment for them the day after. Three days later they were visited by their placing social worker to review their placement at the home.

### **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 continues to be respected and their information continues to be confidentially handled. Each young person has their own bedroom and their case records are securely stored and handled. The home recently notified Ofsted about a significant event. It included staff having to search a young person's bedroom, and the manager confirmed that they did so following the company's guidance for when searching a young person's possessions and/or room.

Young people continue to know how to complain if they are unhappy with any aspect of living in the home. Since the last inspection, the home has not received any complaints. Complaints records are monitored almost every month by the home's external monitor.

An appropriate response continues to be made to any allegation or suspicion of abuse. Since the last inspection, the home's manager has made a safeguarding referral and attended the subsequent strategy meeting after absconding by a young person at the home went into several days.

Young people continue to be protected from bullying. They are protected from bullying in part by the client compatibility risk assessments the home completes when deciding on admissions to the home. The manager commented that one young person has been subject to some verbal taunting by another resident and that this is one of the reasons why the victim of these taunts is now moving to the other children's home in the company. The manager commented that they have spoken with the instigator of this behaviour about it being a type of bullying.

Young people who are absent from the home without consent continue to be protected in line with the home's written policy and procedure for this. Each such absence is recorded as required in the relevant young person's individual case file. One young person has been missing from the home on four occasions since their admission in December 2010, but at the time of this inspection they had not been missing for over five weeks.

Young people continue to be assisted to develop socially acceptable behaviour, through encouragement of acceptable behaviour and constructive staff responses to inappropriate behaviour. Since the last inspection, over six months ago, the home has used restraint once and 16 sanctions. Restraint is seldom used because, as reported in the last notification Ofsted received from the home, 'All staff are using the low arousal technique when [a particular young person] has an outburst.' The home uses an independent psychological service whose assistant psychologist supports the use of this technique, the production of therapeutic behaviour support plans for each young person, and has weekly sessions with each young person. The home also uses an individualised reward system with each young person.

Positive steps continue to be taken to keep young people, staff and visitors safe from risk from fire and other hazards. The home's fire risk assessment was updated by its manager in September 2010, concluding that the overall level of risk was 'low'. Three fire drills have been carried out and recorded since the last inspection, to include young people newly admitted to the home. Staff immediately took action when the most recent of these drills was not completely successful, and the manager is considering whether further action is now necessary. The home carries out, records and reviews individual and collective risk assessments in relation to the young people at the home.

The company's selection and vetting of all staff working with young people in the home was not inspected on this occasion. A new permanent member of staff has not started work at the home since the last inspection, and staff recruitment records are not kept at the home but at its company's office.

### **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.