

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC030797
Inspection date	11 August 2009
Inspector	Diane Thackrah
Type of Inspection	Random

Date of last inspection	19 March 2009
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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 outcome for children set out in the Children Act 2004 and relevant National Minimum Standards for the establishment.

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 that is owned by a company that also own a number of other homes, mainly within the Kent area. The home provides care and accommodation for up to nine young people, of either sex, aged eight to 18 years, who present with emotional and behavioural difficulties.

The home is a large double fronted detached building which is located on a residential road close to a town centre and the range of amenities provided there.

Summary

This interim unannounced inspection looked at the progress the setting has made with the recommendations made at the last inspection on 19 March 2009. These related to improvements in the way that sanctions and complaints are recorded and monitored, and in the recording of incidents where young people go missing. The inspection also looked at the action taken by the home in relation to the use of closed circuit television cameras. The home has taken appropriate action to resolve all four of the recommendations. The outcome areas staying safe and economic wellbeing were also looked at during this inspection. Young people live in a safe and pleasant environment and are protected by robust staff recruitment policies and procedures. There are good systems for protecting young people from bullying and for responding to complaints. Behaviour management is good and young people are well supported to prepare for adulthood.

The overall quality rating is good.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

The registered person was asked to ensure that the sanctions book, complaints log and missing persons records were completed in more detail. This now occurs allowing better opportunities for evaluation in order to promote young people's welfare. The registered person has now reviewed that arrangements for the use of closed circuit television cameras within the building. The level of use has now been reduced to corridors in the home. This protects young people's privacy and promotes a more homely environment.

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 benefit from having their privacy respected and information about them held confidentially. Staff members are provided with guidelines about privacy and confidentiality, and there are secure storage facilities for confidential documents. Young people may have a key to their bedroom should they wish and there are locks on toilet and bathroom doors. There is a telephone that young people can use to make private calls.

Young people are provided with the information they need should they wish to make a complaint against the home. Information about making a complaint through a number of different

organisations is available in the young people's guide to the home and displayed on notice boards in the home. No complaints have been made since the last inspection.

There are policies and procedures in place regarding child protection that staff members are made aware of and these promote the safety of young people. Bullying is not tolerated in the home and is challenged by staff members in order to safeguard young people. There are measures in place to protect young people who go missing from the home without authority. These include good relations with the local police, reward systems and individual risk assessments. The absconding book kept in the home details that all relevant parties are informed should a young person go missing.

There are good behaviour management systems in place which help young people to develop socially acceptable behaviour. Each young person has a detailed care plan that sets out their needs and how these should be met. Staff members receive training in a number of behaviour management techniques including communication with children, the role of the key worker, equality, culture and diversity, challenging behaviour, and non-violent crisis intervention. Sanctions are used fairly and restraint is used as a last resort.

Young people benefit from living in a safe and secure environment. There is staff training in health and safety and regular in-house safety checks and risk assessments. Fire safety arrangements are good. There are regular fire drills and safety checks on fire equipment. Young people's wellbeing is promoted by robust staff recruitment policies and procedures. All required documentation is obtained from staff members prior to them commencing work with the young people.

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 good.

Young people receive care that helps them prepare for adulthood. Older young people have independent living plans that they and their placing authorities have contributed to. Staff support young people to develop skills for independence on a daily basis. This includes helping young people to stay safe and develop positive self-identity.

Young people benefit from living in a homely environment. The home is well maintained, decorated and furnished. All young people have their own bedroom that they are encouraged to personalise. There are pleasant communal areas and places where the young people can go for privacy. Young people have the use of a large, well maintained garden.

Organisation

The organisation is not judged.

What must be done to secure future improvement?

Statutory requirements

This section sets out the actions, which must be taken so that the registered person meets the Care Standards Act 2000, The Childrens Homes Regulations 2001 and the National Minimum Standards. The Registered Provider must comply with the given timescales.

Standard	Action	Due date
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Recommendations

There are no recommendations.