

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	9 July 2010
Inspector	Mick Earl
Type of Inspection	Random

Date of last inspection	27 October 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

The home is situated in a large bungalow on a housing estate. The home provides residential care for up to eight young people usually offering short breaks for children, but sometimes they can stay there for a few weeks. Children who use the home have either a physical disability or a learning disability.

Inside the home there is a lounge, a large dining room and a large playroom. It has eight single occupancy bedrooms, a large kitchen, bathrooms, living areas and offices.

The home is close to local shops. There are bus stops nearby and a regular bus service in to the town centre. The home is in a good position to access leisure centres, the cinema and larger shops in the town centre.

Summary

At this interim inspection the key standards for staying safe were inspected. The inspection also looked at the progress the service has achieved with the actions and recommendations made at the last inspection. The inspection was unannounced.

The inspection identified the home has good strengths. Some of these are in providing individual support; providing a physically safe home; supporting privacy and confidentiality for young people; protecting young people from bullying; ensuring young people do not go missing and ensuring staff are safe to work with young people.

There are areas for improvement and these include formal staff supervision recording, producing an in-house safeguarding procedure, ensuring all policies and procedures are available in the home and ensuring that a night time fire drill is completed.

The overall quality rating is satisfactory.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

Through the actions at the last inspection the service was asked to ensure that the home's Statement of Purpose and development plan were updated. These actions have been met.

The home was also asked to ensure all staff receive the correct amount of formal supervision each month. The records show that this action has not been met.

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 living at the home are treated with dignity and respect. They have their own bedroom and there are sufficient bathrooms and toilets to meet the needs of the young people living at the home. Staff make sure information about young people is handled confidentially

and stored securely, however, copies of the policies and procedures were not available in the home.

There are clear procedures for managing complaints appropriately and ensuring young people are listened to. Staff make sure young people are aware of who they can go to if they have any complaints or concerns. The home has received no complaints from young people since the last inspection.

The home has satisfactory procedures for safeguarding young people from abuse. There are suitable arrangements for making sure that staff receive child protection training. This helps staff protect young people from abuse and ensures that they respond appropriately to any allegation or suspicion of abuse. Young people benefit from being looked after by a team of staff who create an atmosphere where bullying is known to be unacceptable. The home has an up to date in-house safeguarding procedure in place although the manager agreed that it still requires more detailed information.

Staff know how to take appropriate action when young people go missing or are absent from the home without permission. There are suitable policies and procedures in place and each young person's assessment includes the risk of them going missing without permission. The high levels of staffing and supervision ensure that there is little chance of a young person going missing and there have been no incidents since the last inspection.

Staff encourage and support young people to develop and maintain socially acceptable behaviour. They give positive messages to young people to reinforce acceptable behaviour. Staff use sanctions very rarely and there have only been eight sanctions in nine months. There are clear procedures and guidance for staff regarding how they should manage the behaviour of young people and staff have received training in the safe restraint and holding of young people. There have been two restraints at the home since the last inspection. Some of the records do not contain all of the required information which is needed to show that young people are managed in a safe way.

There are good systems in place to keep young people and adults safe from the risk of fire and other potential hazards. This includes carrying out a range of risk assessments and providing information for young people. Staff and young people take part in regular fire drills. Staff receive fire safety training although the records do not show when some staff last completed their training. There are appropriate arrangements for carrying out regular checks of equipment such as fire alarms and electrical appliances which help to keep young people safe. Fire drills take place at the right times but there is no record of a night time drill taking place in the last twelve months.

The home has appropriate procedures in place to help make sure it employs suitable people. This includes carrying out Criminal Records Bureau disclosure checks on new staff before they start work at the home. There are suitable arrangements for monitoring and managing visitors to the home and these help ensure that they do not have inappropriate access to 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 not judged.

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
28	ensure all staff receive the correct ammount of formal supervision each month. (Regulation 27)	26 July 2010

Recommendations

To improve the quality and standards of care further the registered person should take account of the following recommendation(s):

- ensure policy, procedures and guidance on privacy and confidentiality are available in the home (NMS 9)
- ensure the in-house safeguarding procedure contains more detail and includes information on areas such as grooming and the risks linked to mobile phones and computers (NMS 17)
- ensure that one night time fire drill is carried out in a 12 month period. (NMS 26)