

Inspection report for Children's Home

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Inspection date	22/03/2011
Inspector	Shaun Common
Type of inspection	Random

Date of last inspection	17/11/2010
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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 children's home is operated by a local authority. It provides long term residential care for up to six children and young people of either gender between the ages of 12 and 17 years. The home is an eight bedroom, two-storey detached property. It is located in the suburbs of a city and is within easy reach of local amenities and transport links.

On the ground floor there are two lounges, a fitted kitchen, a dining room, a utility room, a garage, two toilets and a games room. There are gardens to front and side with a large garden to the rear of the property. On the first floor there are two bathrooms, a separate shower room and two separate toilets. Young people have their own bedrooms and there are also bedrooms with en-suite facilities for staff that sleep-in.

Six young people were accommodated and three were present at the time of the inspection. One young person contributed to the inspection and two young people declined the offer to speak with the inspector.

Summary

The overall quality rating is good.

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

This unannounced interim inspection examined the outcome area of staying safe. It also looked at the progress the setting has made with the statutory requirement and recommendations made at the last inspection in November 2010. These related to revising the Statement of Purpose, reviewing the premises and bullying risk assessments. The provision has taken appropriate action to resolve these matters.

Being healthy, enjoying and achieving, positive contribution, economic well-being and organisation were not assessed during this inspection.

Improvements since the last inspection

The registered persons were asked to make four improvements at the last inspection. They were asked to revise the Statement of Purpose to include the staffing policy and any electronic or mechanical surveillance used and to regularly review the premises and bullying risk assessments. These matters have been addressed and ensure young people are kept safe and that accurate information is available about the home and its services for young people, families and placing authorities.

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 information is kept securely in the home. They have a private telephone that they can use at any time to keep in touch with people important to them. Staff treat young people with respect and dignity. Young people are afforded privacy. A young person stated that they can have privacy in the home and when making telephone calls. They also said that staff always knock on bedroom doors and never enter unless invited. A policy on searching a young person's possessions in the interests of their welfare and safety is in place. No searches have been undertaken.

Young people have access to good information about making a complaint. A young person stated that they have access to information, know how to complain, but has no concerns and that staff will sort things out. A complaints procedure is in place that is known and understood by staff. This helps them provide support to young people where needed. A record is in place for any complaints, which shows all matters are fully and appropriately addressed with a clear outcome. Any concerns are therefore dealt with.

A copy of the Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures and the home's own child protection procedures are available. They are accessible to staff who understand them and this helps them to keep young people safe. A young person stated they feel safe at the home.

An anti-bullying policy is in place that is known and understood by staff to help them safeguard young people. Any matters are recorded and closely monitored by staff. Records show this is the case and how matters are addressed or being addressed. A young person said that staff address any bullying concerns in the home. A risk assessment is in place that identifies to staff the times, places and circumstances where bullying could be more prevalent to help them reduce the risks and keep young people safe.

There have been no incidents of any young person being absent without authority. Staff know and understand the procedure the home has in place, which helps them to keep young people safe.

A young person stated they have good relationships with all staff at the home and are treated fairly. Staff encourage young people to develop socially acceptable behaviour through positive relationships, rewards and the appropriate use of sanctions.

A range of behaviour management policies are in place that support staff delivering care in this area. There have been no physical restraints since the last inspection. Any sanctions imposed are fully recorded and young people are encouraged to sign the record and write their comments. This encourages young people to develop understanding and responsibility. However, sanction records do not record the effectiveness of the measure in order to ascertain whether measures imposed are having a positive effect on the social development of young people.

Risk assessments are in place in relation to young people's likely and known activities and the home's premises and grounds. These are reviewed regularly. Staff know and follow these to help keep young people safe. Other health and safety matters are managed very well. For example, regular maintenance takes place of portable electrical appliances, fire equipment, the fire alarm and the gas boiler. Fire drills take place very regularly. This shows young people and staff know what to do to keep themselves safe in the event of any emergency.

There has been no new staff recruited since the last inspection. The home has a policy for the safe recruitment of new employees. This means checks undertaken ensure new staff are the right people to work with children.

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/s meets the Care Standards Act 2000, Children's Homes Regulations 2001 and the National Minimum Standards. The Registered Provider(s) must comply with the given timescales.

Std.	Action	Due date
22	ensure that sanctions records include the effectiveness of the measure. (Regulation 17(4)(f))	31/03/2011