

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC034851
Inspection date	14 January 2010
Inspector	David Martin
Type of Inspection	Random

Date of last inspection	1 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

This home provides care and support for four young people of either sex between the ages of 11 and 17 years. Young people are accommodated in single bedrooms on the upper floor and there are three communal rooms and office accommodation downstairs. The home is a detached property located close to public transport and local amenities.

Summary

This unannounced interim inspection was carried out to assess the home's performance against national minimum standards under the staying safe outcome area. An assessment was also made in respect of the recommendations made at the last inspection.

The home continues to ensure that young people are looked after safely. Unauthorised absence is managed well and safeguarding matters are referred to the appropriate agencies. Improvements have been made concerning fire safety, the promotion of equality and diversity and monthly monitoring.

The overall quality rating is good.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

Since the last inspection the fire risk assessment has been reviewed and updated. This protects young people from harm. The promotion of equality and diversity has been improved and the home has implemented an audit to ensure that it is embedded as a key value. Regulation 33 reports are now evaluative, ensuring that areas for improvement are identified.

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 and dignity is respected. Bedrooms and bathrooms are lockable and there is access to a private telephone. Young people are expected to be appropriately dressed when they are in communal areas of the home. Records are held securely in the home's offices. The staff have completed training on issues of confidentiality which ensures that information about young people is protected.

The young people have clear information about raising their concerns, complaints and grumbles. They are regularly reminded that they have access to the local children's rights officer.

The staff have completed safeguarding training and are confident about reporting any concerns or disclosures. There have been no child protection issues in the home in the period since the last inspection. The home successfully promotes an anti-bullying culture. These steps help protect young people from harm.

The home actively promotes good, socially acceptable behaviour. Staff have been trained in using safe methods of physical intervention and techniques for managing confrontation. There

is minimal use of sanctions. Incidents of unauthorised absence are managed appropriately and where necessary are dealt with on a multi-agency basis. This contributes to the overall safety of young people.

The premises are maintained in good order. Fire safety checks are up to date and the fire risk assessment has been reviewed.

New staff are employed following a robust selection process and thorough vetting. This ensures that staff are suitable to work with young people and contributes to their overall safety and well being.

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 good.

The promotion of equality and diversity is good. The home has implemented a bi-annual audit of the way in which equality and diversity is promoted. This contributes to the young people's understanding of individual difference.

Regulation 33 monitoring visits are being carried out and the reports now contain an evaluation of the work undertaken in the home. This ensures that areas for improvement are clearly identified.

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.