

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC034944
Inspection date	18 February 2010
Inspector	Graham Robinson
Type of Inspection	Random

Date of last inspection	10 August 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 provides medium to long-term care to young people of primary school age on admission. It specialises in working with children and young people who are deemed to suffer from an attachment disorder or difficulty. All admissions are planned.

The home is located in a residential area and has a domestic appearance. It provides a child-friendly environment with space for young people to follow their individual interests. It contains all the fixtures, equipment and furnishings expected in a domestic dwelling.

There is an expectation that young people are educated in school, not in the home. Good links exist with local schools. Full advantage is taken of community based leisure activities and pursuits.

As well as providing residential provision, the home provides individual therapeutic programmes. All such activity takes place away from the home environment. It remains the responsibility of placing authorities who purchase a therapeutic package for a young person to ensure it is appropriate to meet their individual needs.

Summary

This short, unannounced interim inspection was used to follow up the recommendations made at the previous inspection. In addition, the key standards linked to staying safe were also reviewed. The overall quality rating made at the full inspection remains as it was.

Since the previous inspection, there have been no changes to the management, structure or working practices of the home. It continues to be well managed. A stable, caring environment is provided for two young people.

Young people are settled in the home and the relationships between them and staff were observed as being good. They are all in full time education at a community based school and enjoy a range of activities and leisure pursuits designed to meet individual needs.

No issues, concerns or complaints were raised by either young people or staff. No new actions or recommendations have been made as a result of this inspection.

The overall quality rating is good.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

The report from the previous inspection contained no actions, but two recommendations. Both have been addressed positively. This has resulted in improvements regarding the number of staff trained in medication awareness. The number of staff having either completed or about to complete appropriate National Vocational Training has also increased, resulting in the home meeting national standards regarding the number of trained staff it employs.

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.

The safety and rights of both staff and young people are protected. The organisation, working practices and strategies designed to keep young people safe remain good. The records detailing complaints, unauthorised absence, formal notifications, sanctions, incidents and physical interventions are well maintained and reflect the current stability of the home.

Young people understand how to access the complaints procedure, which has been tested since the previous inspection. Records of complaints are detailed, with responses to the complainant and the outcome being evident. Young people feel that staff respond positively to their worries and concerns.

Staff understand their responsibilities around safeguarding matters and are familiar with the policy and procedures in place. Any issues of a safeguarding nature are immediately referred to the appropriate external agencies, following the homes own and local safeguarding procedures.

Whilst bullying is currently not a live issue within the home, staff are aware of young people's vulnerability and their potential to bully or be bullied. Information on bullying is displayed around the home along with the contact details of appropriate independent external agencies. Young people expressed no concerns about any issues linked to being or feeling safe.

No changes were reported to the systems to clear and recruit staff, which have previously been judged to meet current good practice. Two new staff have been recruited since the previous inspection. Evidence is retained on site to show that both were properly cleared and that appropriate recruitment practices took place.

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
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Recommendations

There are no recommendations.