

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC035339
Inspection date	5 October 2009
Inspector	Mark Kersh
Type of Inspection	Random

Date of last inspection	5 May 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 children's home is owned and managed by a Metropolitan Borough Council. The property is a Victorian building, which stands in its own grounds. It is situated close to the town centre, schools, and other community facilities.

The home can accommodate six young people and has been set up specifically to provide care to young people with a range of needs. It is anticipated that the young people will live at the home on a medium to long-term basis.

The home provides single room accommodation, food, clothing, care, activities, and access to education support services.

Two young people currently live in this home.

Summary

At this unannounced interim inspection the outcome area of staying safe was inspected. Being healthy, enjoying and achieving, positive contribution, economic wellbeing and organisation were not inspected. This inspection looked at the progress the home has made with the recommendations from the previous inspection on 05 May 2009 and focussed on how young people are being protected. The home has taken appropriate action to resolve previous recommendations. Young people continue to be safeguarded and protected by the good policies and procedures trained staff follow.

The overall quality rating is good.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

Following the previous inspection the acting manager was asked to improve the records for sanctions imposed on young people. Sanctions imposed on young people are recorded on separate pages within the sanction book, and this ensures confidentiality when young people are encouraged to write or have their views recorded and sign their names against the records kept by the home. The acting manager was asked to ensure fire evacuations are carried out at regular intervals. Fire evacuations are routinely carried out and this ensures young people and staff do not become complacent when the fire alarm sounds.

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 is respected. Staff demonstrate a clear understanding in ensuring policies and procedures are followed for confidentiality reasons, all written information is stored securely. Staff know how to deal with and share information which they are given in confidence for child protection purposes. Young people's bedrooms provide suitable means to keep their possessions secure and staff are courteous and always knock before entering young people's

bedrooms. Young people have their own mobile phones and access to a phone in the home, and can make and receive telephone calls in private.

Young people are aware of the home's complaints procedure and feel that their views and comments are taken seriously by staff. Following the home's previous inspection one external complaint has been made and a satisfactory outcome achieved, which is clearly documented in the complaint record book.

Young people's safety is actively promoted. Staff work effectively as a team and follow the home's policies and procedures to promote young people's welfare. There are no current issues in relation to safeguarding or bullying. Staff are all trained in child protection and child exploitation and they understand the importance of their collective roles and individual responsibilities. Young people rarely absent themselves without authority and if they do, staff know what to do and follow agreed procedures.

Sanctions are rarely used by staff, and when imposed are agreed by young people. Positive behaviour is promoted through the effective use of achievable rewards and incentives. All staff are trained in safe restraint techniques so that young people's behaviours are managed well in times of crisis. Young people have individual risk assessments and behaviour management plans, which staff use to reduce risk taking behaviours. Such plans help keep young people safe from harm.

Health and safety matters are managed well, with annual safety tests undertaken to ensure household appliances and fire equipment are serviced and working correctly. Arrangements for fire safety checks and fire evacuations are frequently carried out, however, records in relation to the times when fire evacuations take place and when emergency lighting checks are carried out, need improvement.

Robust recruitment procedures ensure, as reasonable as possible, any new staff are suitable and safe to work with young people and these procedures include relevant checks before agency staff are used in the home. Thorough systems in place ensure existing staff are re-checked for any criminal convictions. These arrangements help to protect 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
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Recommendations

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

- ensure fire drills are held at night and a record maintained for the testing of the emergency lighting system (NMS 26.8).