

Inspection report for Children's Home

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Inspection date	28/02/2011
Inspector	Mark Kersh
Type of inspection	Random

Date of last inspection	20/10/2010
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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 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.

Four young people currently live in this home of which two were present during this inspection.

Summary

The overall quality rating is good.

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

This interim inspection focused on the outcome area of staying safe and also the progress made with the one recommendation raised at the last inspection. The home provides young people with good support. Their safety and welfare is promoted and safeguarded. Young people are consulted and listened to in a way that empowers them to develop their self-esteem and confidence. The current manager has submitted an application to register with Ofsted. The home is well managed and provides good consistency of care with a staff team committed to working towards positive outcomes for young people.

Improvements since the last inspection

The last inspection raised one recommendation in relation to when disciplinary measures are imposed young people should be encouraged to write or have their views recorded and sign their names against them if possible in the records kept by the home. This recommendation has been suitably addressed.

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.

All young people have their own bedrooms and keys to lock their doors. Staff practices promote young people's privacy and dignity and they are aware of the importance in promoting confidentiality balanced with individual risk assessments. All confidential information in respect of young people is securely stored.

Young people are protected by clear policies and procedures that promote their safety and welfare. Staff know what their responsibilities are in relation to protecting young people from harm and receive appropriate training. Staff regularly have discussions with young people about keeping themselves safe. Strong links are established with a number of professionals and agencies. This enables the home to generate strategies and take a consistent approach to those young people who place themselves at risk.

Since the last inspection there have been no complaints. Young people confirm they are listened to and that staff act to resolve any concerns they may have about the home. Information is given to young people advising them what they should do if they have a complaint. The young people spoken to feel the home is a good place to live which provides them with support.

There is a clear ethos within the home regarding bullying. Strategies are used to promote a culture where young people feel safe and this minimises the risk of young people bullying others or being bullied themselves. Staffing levels provide young people with the supervision appropriate to their individual needs and further protects them from harm.

Staff work closely with the police to safeguard young people who are absent from the home without authority. Clear policies and procedures ensure staff know what to do to guarantee young people return home safely. Staff talk to young people on their return to make sure they are safe and well. If any significant information is disclosed staff ensure the appropriate agencies are notified. These practices help to keep young people safe.

The home encourages and supports young people's positive behaviour. Staff work positively with young people and build on trusting relationships acting as positive role models. Young people's plans incorporate incentives to help them develop good social skills and coping mechanisms. Sanctions are imposed for inappropriate behaviour. However, records show on occasions the imposition of financial penalties have been used as a disciplinary measure. Records show there have been no restraints. The sanctions and restraints are monitored by the manager and external visitor.

Young people live in a safe environment. Staff are guided by risk assessments in relation to the home and young people's activities. These are reviewed on a regular basis. Appropriate records are maintained of all health and safety checks undertaken.

Young people and staff take part in regular fire drills including a night time fire drill. This promotes the health and safety of young people, staff and visitors to the home.

The recruitment and selection practices are good. Staff, including agency staff, receive the necessary checks before commencing employment. All visitors to the home are requested to sign in and identification checked to ensure young people are protected.

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 no measure of control, restraint or discipline which is excessive, unreasonable or contrary to paragraph (5) shall be used at any time on children accommodated in the home. (Regulation 17.5 (g))	21/03/2011

