

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC035380
Inspection date	21 April 2010
Inspector	Bill Drumm
Type of Inspection	Random

Date of last inspection	9 November 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

Short-break care and accommodation are provided at the home for six young people aged eight to 17 years, with learning and physical disabilities. The home is a detached property with enclosed gardens. The grounds of the home include a play area, orchard, sensory garden and an area of lawn. The house has three floors. On the ground floor there are 10 rooms, which include a computer room, a room used for imaginary play, an art and craft room, sensory room, kitchen and quiet room. On the second floor there are single bedrooms for each young person, a staff sleep-in room, staff office, a number of family-sized bathrooms and a dining room. The third floor contains the manager's office, meeting room and store rooms. The home has a detached garage, which contains a soft play area and cinema.

The home is situated in a residential area and is near to local shops. The home is close to local bus routes which provide easy access to the town centre, with its larger shops and leisure facilities.

No young people were present at the time of the inspection.

Summary

This was an unannounced interim inspection of the home. The outcome area for young people in the area of staying safe was inspected and found to be outstanding. The recommendation made at the previous inspection was also looked at and was found to have been met. Young people receive consistently high levels of help and support from a well trained, committed and experienced staff team. Care planning arrangements are excellent and young people are consulted about the care they receive. The home's records are maintained to a good standard and all information relating to young people is kept safe and secure. The home is very well managed and the outcomes for young people are outstanding.

The overall quality rating is outstanding.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

Since the last inspection the home's manager has improved the procedure for the handling and administration of medication. Members of staff have provided a sample of both their initials and signature. This helps to identify which members of staff are responsible for particular areas of the medication administration process.

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Young people living at the home are fully protected by the home's medication administration systems. The home's manager has improved the procedure for the management and administration of medication. Each member of staff has provided a sample copy of both their initials and signature. This helps to clearly identify which member of staff is responsible for the administration of medication. Any mistakes can be quickly apportioned and where necessary, further training provided.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

Personal information relating to each young person is stored safely and securely and members of staff working at the home are acutely aware of the need to maintain confidentiality. Personal care is provided discreetly and privately to those young people who are unable to independently manage their own care needs. Each young person who lives at the home has their own bedroom and there are sufficient, fully adapted toilets and bathrooms to meet the needs of the young people who live at the home. The home has policies and procedures in place, which explain what action members of staff should take when it is necessary to search a young person's bedroom. No room searches have ever been carried out at the home. This means the privacy and dignity of young people are promoted and maintained and that young people are treated with the utmost dignity and respect.

The home has policies and procedures in place for dealing with complaints thoroughly and effectively. The young people's guide to the home provides very clear detailed information to young people about who they can contact if they are unhappy about anything. The young people's guide is very easy to understand, is written in plain English and makes full use of photographs and symbols to aid understanding. The young people's guide is a well-produced document. There have been no complaints made at the home since the last inspection.

Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures are available in the home and all members of staff have received training in child protection and safeguarding. There have been no child protection referrals made since the last inspection. Young people living at the home are fully protected from exploitation or abuse.

The home has up-to-date policies and procedures to help staff counter bullying. Each young person who lives at the home has a thorough and up-to-date risk assessment, which includes the likelihood of them being a bully or being a victim of bullying. Members of staff working at the home have received training in countering bullying. There have been no incidents of bullying since the last inspection and young people are fully protected from bullying.

There have been no occasions since the last inspection when a young person has been absent without authority. Members of staff provide exceptionally high levels of care and supervision to young people, which helps to keep them safe and well.

The home has policies and procedures for the safe holding and restraint of young people. Members of staff have all received training in safe holding techniques. Restraint records are maintained within a separate bound and numbered book used specifically for that purpose. There have been a small number of restraints used on young people since the last inspection. Written records have been fully completed and are reviewed monthly by someone who does not work at the home. Sanctions records are also maintained. A small number of sanctions have been imposed on young people because of their behaviour since the last inspection. Members of staff respond positively to young people, who are encouraged and supported to develop socially acceptable behaviour.

All visitors to the home are asked to identify themselves and to sign the visitors' book prior to being given entry to the building. Regular fire drills are undertaken at the home and young people are fully involved in this process.

There has been one new appointment to the staff team at the home since the last inspection. Young people are supported and enabled to be fully involved in the recruitment and selection process. Members of staff working at the home provide a consistently high quality of care and service to the young people living there. Staff files retained within the home are well ordered and include information about each staff member. Young people living at the home are provided with physical safety and security.

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.