

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	25 August 2010
Inspector	Susan Mullin
Type of Inspection	Random

Date of last inspection	24 March 2010
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You can obtain copies of The Children Act 2004, Every Child Matters and The National Minimum Standards for Children's Services from: The Stationery Office (TSO) PO Box 29, St Cripins, Duke Street, Norwich, NR3 1GN. Tel: 0870 600 5522. Online ordering: www.tso.co.uk/bookshop

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 a semi detached Victorian building on the outskirts of a large city centre. The service provides care for up-to-four young people aged between 10 years and 17 years old. The home is registered to provide care to young people with emotional or behavioural difficulties. All young people have their own bedroom on the first floor of the three-storey building. There is a garden that young people can use and the home is close to local amenities. The home is one of four homes owned and run by a private company.

Summary

This was an unannounced interim inspection. The visit concentrated on the one statutory action and three recommendations made at the last key inspection in May 2010. In addition, the Every Child Matters outcome area for staying safe was inspected. At the time of the inspection, two young people were living at the home and one participated in the inspection process.

Two actions and one recommendation result from this inspection. Effective monitoring of events has not always taken place in the absence of the Registered Manager and as a result, appropriate notifications have not been forwarded to Ofsted as required by regulation. One action made to ensure all staff receive appropriate supervision, in particular relief staff and new staff within their first six months of employment, has not yet been met. There are no robust arrangement in place for deputising staff to complete these.

At the last key inspection the home was assessed as good. Following this inspection the overall judgement is satisfactory. This judgement will be reviewed again at the home's next full inspection when all key national minimum standards will be re-assessed.

The overall quality rating is satisfactory.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

One action in relation to supervision is repeated this inspection.

Three recommendations were made which included; that the registered person was asked to ensure all searches of young people's possessions are documented, showing in particular the reason for the search and who was present at the time. This is now met. The registered provider was asked to carry out regular recorded risk assessments of the times, places and circumstances in which the risk of bullying is greatest. The provider has now implemented a comprehensive generic risk assessment, that all staff are aware of. Lastly, the registered provider was asked to carry out recorded risk assessments in relation to young people's known activities, in particular the use of weight training equipment. This is also satisfactorily met.

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is not judged.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Young people have individual bedrooms and they are provided with a key to their bedroom door which means they have the privacy of their own room. Effective arrangements are in place in relation to complaints and bullying. Young people have opportunities to let staff know about any matters they are unhappy with. Young people also have access to persons outside of the home, including advocacy, health and education professionals.

Staff receive child protection training and are aware of the Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures in order to help keep young people safe from harm. Staff know how to respond in the event of any allegation or serious concern about a young person's safety and take action to keep young people safe. Significant events affecting the welfare of young people are recorded in the home. However, not all required notifications are forwarded, without delay, to Ofsted which is a breach of regulation.

Young people's good behaviour is actively encouraged and rewards such as days out are given. Permanent staff and bank staff receive training in techniques to manage challenging behaviour, including the appropriate use of physical intervention. Incentive schemes are in place to encourage young people's positive behaviour. There are times when staff use physical intervention to prevent young people from causing significant harm to themselves. All restraints are recorded appropriately, in line with the home's current policies and procedures, which further supports young people's safety and well-being.

The home environment is reasonably well maintained with systems in place for health and safety checks to be carried out. Young people and staff are fully aware of the fire evacuation procedures and know what to do in the event of a fire in the home. Thorough recruitment and employment checks are carried out by the provider to verify staff employed at the home are suitable to work with young people.

There is liability insurance cover but the certificate does not specify the name and address of the home.

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 Children's Homes Regulations 2001 and the National Minimum Standards. The Registered Provider must comply with the given timescales.

Standard	Action	Due date
20	ensure if any of the events listed in Column 1 of the table in schedule 5 takes place, the registered person shall without delay notify the persons indicated in respect of the event in column 2 of the table. In particular, notify Ofsted of any serious incident necessitating calling the police to the home. (Regulation 30 (1))	7 September 2010
31	ensure that staff receive appropriate supervision (Regulation 27(4)(a))	29 September 2010

Recommendations

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

- ensure certificates of insurance specify the name and address of the particular home (NMS 26.9)