

Inspection report for Children's Home

Unique reference number	SC039673
Inspection date	18/01/2011
Inspector	Graham Robinson
Type of inspection	Random

Date of last inspection	30/06/2010
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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 residential unit provides care for up to six young people of either sex aged from 13 to 18 years. The unit takes emergency placements. Placements are also available for young people bailed or remanded by a court, or when family or previous placement break down occurs.

Since the previous inspection, the service has returned to its original location following the completion of a complete new re-build on this site. This also means the service has returned to its original unique reference number as stated above. The key inspection completed in June 2010 was undertaken when the service was temporarily housed at its alternative location. The report from this can be found by checking against the unique reference number of that temporary accommodation which is SC039684.

Summary

The overall quality rating is good.

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

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 have also been reviewed. As this is the first inspection of the service since its move back to its original site, a section on the building appears in economic wellbeing. Due to the limitations of this inspection, no changes have been made to the overall quality rating attained at the previous full inspection, which remains as good.

Despite the physical move undertaken since the previous inspection, the management of the service, staffing, ethos, structure and working practices of the unit remain unchanged. It creates a stable and safe environment for young people to live in and continues to provide a high standard of care.

The unit is relatively settled and there are no major behaviour management issues ongoing. Young people speak positively about their experiences of living at the unit and feel well supported by staff. They and the staff have taken great pride and worked hard in a short space of time to turn the shell of a new build into a warm, relaxed and pleasant environment.

No issues, concerns or complaints were raised by either young people or staff. No actions have been made as a result of this inspection, although one new recommendation linked to the recording of fire drills, has been raised.

Improvements since the last inspection

The report from the previous inspection contained no actions. Five recommendations were made and they have all been positively addressed. This has led to improvements in the missing from home and physical intervention records, along with the improved presentation of young people's placement plans. In addition, the unit has created a system that records the daily food intake for each young person as well as revising and updating the statement of purpose.

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 young people are protected. The organisation, working practices and strategies designed to keep young people safe remain intact. The records detailing complaints, missing from home, additional measures, rewards and physical intervention are well maintained and up to date. New risk assessments identifying hazards in and around the unit have been created and fire drills are taking place regularly. However, the records of when drills take place, whilst including the date, fail to identify the time.

Whilst young people have not had cause to test the complaints procedures since the previous inspection, they do understand how to access them. They confirm they are given specific information about complaints when first admitted.

There have been no issues linked to safeguarding occurring in the unit since the previous inspection. Staff are aware of their responsibilities and what action to take should an issue arise. The home has maintained its good links with the external agencies charged with specific safeguarding duties.

Bullying is not an issue of concern to young people, who confirm that staff are both vigilant and quick to intervene should an incident occur. They feel the unit is a safe place to live and that staff are both approachable and act fairly if they have concerns or are involved in any misdemeanour.

The unit is stable, with relatively few serious incidents and upsets occurring. Staff are skilled at developing positive relationships with young people and the ethos of the unit is to work supportively rather than punitively. Young people confirm that incidents linked to behaviour management are dealt with appropriately and fairly by staff.

No new staff have been recruited since the previous inspection and no changes to

the systems to clear and recruit staff were reported. These systems meet with regulatory requirements.

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 outstanding.

The unit has returned to its original location following the demolishing of the original building, which has been replaced by a new, purpose-built one. The building has been completed to a high specification that is specifically designed to meet the needs of the occupants, along with the specific aims of the service provided.

The building is spacious and contains all the amenities demanded and expected in modern living. The quality of the fixtures, fittings, furnishings, equipment and décor are of an exceptionally high standard. Staff and young people have settled well into their new surroundings and are well advanced in completing the process of personalising the unit and turning it into a warm, welcoming environment.

Organisation

The organisation is not judged.

What must be done to secure future improvement?

Recommendations

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

- ensure that the time a fire drill takes place is recorded alongside the date. (NMS 26.8)