

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC040509
Inspection date	27 January 2010
Inspector	Anthony Kyem
Type of Inspection	Random

Date of last inspection	26 August 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

The home is a local authority run children's home which provides care and accommodation for up to three young people of either sex between the ages of 11 to 17 years. The home is a semi-detached property situated on a terraced row of houses. There are no distinguishing features to suggest that the home is a children's home. The home is situated on a major bus route, therefore, is accessible to local shopping and leisure facilities.

Summary

This was an unannounced interim inspection. The purpose of the visit was to assess the home's capacity to meet the recommendations identified during the previous inspection. The outcome areas for staying safe and economic well-being were also assessed.

There are no actions or recommendations resulting from this inspection. The home continues to effectively promote young people's welfare and safety. The standard and decorative repair is good, providing those residents with a pleasant place to live.

The overall quality rating is good.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

No actions were identified at the time of the previous inspection. The home has successfully addressed all of the recommendations identified.

The standard of the accommodation provided for young people is good with a programme of redecoration and refurbishment now complete. Sanctions used by staff are now monitored to review their effectiveness. Refresher training on fire safety is now being provided for all staff.

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 arrangements in place for promoting young people's privacy are good. Young people are provided with their own bedrooms and washing facilities provide them with good facilities to wash in private, in the knowledge that their privacy will not be compromised. Good arrangements are made for the promotion of young people's safety.

Staff offer young people good support and protection, and they ensure that young people are protected from abuse. All staff are trained in safeguarding so they know how to respond to suspected abuse. Bullying is addressed effectively and staff are knowledgeable of the home's procedures to promote young people's welfare. No complaints have been made by young people, since the previous inspection.

There are no issues with young people placing themselves at significant risk of harm. Unauthorised absences are rare, and these are managed effectively, with good records maintained. Staff ensure that young people know what behaviours are unacceptable, and young

people are actively encouraged to reflect on any negative behaviours. Staff use story books in a creative way, to encourage young people to reflect on issues, such as bullying. Books, such as 'hands are not for hitting' are used for such purposes, to educate young people of the differences between right and wrong.

Staff manage young people's behaviours in a controlled and sensitive way. Restraints and sanctions records show that these are undertaken fairly and within the constraints of professional boundaries. Appropriate records are maintained by staff, in line with legal requirements. Staff are trained in the use of restraint, which enables them to keep young people safe in times of personal crisis.

Health and safety systems are implemented effectively. There is regular and routine testing of the home's fire alarm and contractual servicing of the home's fire, electrical and gas appliances. These systems are used to promote environmental safety, for those resident within 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 good.

Since the last inspection the home has undergone a programme of complete decoration and refurbishment. New bathroom facilities are now provided and the home is decorated nicely. Cosmetically, the physical appearance of the home has improved, significantly. Colour themes, furniture, pictures and soft furnishings have been chosen carefully, to create a pleasantly decorated home.

The home has a lounge area and a dining room. Both rooms come with televisions, which enables young people to watch different television programmes, enhancing young people's choices within the home. The dining area is well resourced and comes with a good range of reading materials, games, computer consoles, a computer and a wide selection of DVDs for young people's recreational pastimes. There are good facilities for young people and staff, to enjoy sociable meal times together.

Young people are provided with their own bedrooms, which they are free to personalise. Staff are proactive in their attempts, to maintain the good, high quality standards observed.

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.