

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC040509
Inspection date	29 June 2010
Inspector	Anthony Kyem
Type of Inspection	Random

Date of last inspection	27 January 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 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 in 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, and therefore is accessible to local shopping and leisure facilities.

Summary

This was an unannounced interim inspection. The purpose of the visit was to look at any actions or recommendations identified at the last inspection. The outcome area for staying safe was also assessed. The outcome areas for being healthy, enjoying and achieving, making a positive contribution, achieving economic well-being and organisation were not inspected.

The home continues to provide care for young people to good standards. There are good arrangements made for the promotion of young people's welfare. Health and safety within the home is effectively promoted by staff.

The overall quality rating is good.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

There were no actions or recommendations made at the last inspection.

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.

Young people's privacy is promoted and all young people are provided with their own separate bedrooms. The washing facilities have locks fitted to them to ensure that young people are able to wash and use the home's facilities with privacy. Young people's confidential records are securely stored to protect them.

The home has a written complaints procedure, which is accessible to young people and enables them to complain. Young people have the opportunity to meet with the children's rights officer to discuss any issues or concerns they may have, or experience, with the home. No complaints have been made by young people since the previous inspection. Young people's welfare is promoted and there are effective systems for staff to follow to protect young people from harm.

Staff are appropriately trained in safeguarding so they have a good awareness and understanding of the procedures to be followed if there is suspected abuse. Young people are appropriately protected and there are strategies in place to deter and prevent bullying behaviour. Young people's questionnaires received prior to this inspection indicate that staff protect young people from bullying. There are no current issues with bullying and staff are vigilant towards anti-social behaviour.

There are good procedures in place for reporting unauthorised absence. Risks associated with young people going missing are recorded which helps staff in their decision making. Young people who absent themselves without authority are reported missing in line with their risk assessments to promote their safety and speedy return.

Staff are all trained in care and control and they are trained in diversion techniques, to help them to manage young people's behaviours in a safe and consistent way. The use of restraint is rare, but where it has been used, it has been used very effectively to protect young people from injury and harm. Sanctions used by staff are fair and these are used to discourage anti-social behaviour. Young people are provided with targeted incentives to improve their behaviour in identified ways.

Health and safety systems are managed well. The home has an appropriate fire and building risk assessment in place. There is weekly testing of the home's fire fighting equipment. Fire drills are undertaken with young people, so they know how to follow the home's emergency fire evacuation procedures. There is a programme for the routine maintenance of all fire fighting equipment, gas and portable electrical appliances.

Recruitment procedures were not inspected on this occasion. Staff's personnel records are not kept within the home. Staff records were inspected last year and these were found to be compliant with the standards and regulations. There was good evidence produced during this visit to demonstrate that all staff have had a Criminal Records Bureau check completed at an enhanced level.

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.