

Inspection report for Children's Home

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Inspector	John Chivers
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Date of last inspection	28/06/2010
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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

The home is managed by the county council and is one of a number of children's homes administered by the local authority. The home is registered to accommodate a maximum of nine children of either gender aged between nine and 14 years on admission. The home is situated in the village centre and close to local facilities and amenities. Admissions are generally planned, although in exceptional circumstances an emergency admission may be considered where the child falls within the home's admission criteria.

The home provides a caring and supportive service to children with a wide range of needs.

Summary

The overall quality rating is good.

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

The inspection was an interim inspection and unannounced, All of the key national minimum standards in the section 'staying safe' were assessed. NMS 13.4 of the section being healthy and NMS 28.2 of the section organisation were also checked for compliance following recommendations at the last inspection. The two recommendations made at the last inspection were found to have been met in full and no actions or recommendations are made as a result of this inspection. The home continues to be organised and managed in a sound and professional manner and affords an equally sound and professional standard of care and support to the resident young people. There were eight young people in residence at the time of the inspection; however all were attending school and therefore did not take an active part in the inspection process.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the Registered Manager was asked to ensure signed parental consent for medical and emergency treatment was pursued from the placing social worker and that formal supervision was increased to the required frequency for all staff.

Signed parental consent for medical and emergency treatment has now been obtained from the placing social worker who confirms parental consent for such treatment. Staff supervision now occurs at the required frequency for all staff and is now consistent with requirements.

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.

Staff are aware of the importance of confidentiality and receive information safety training. Young people are treated with dignity and staff respect their privacy. Confidential records are securely held in locked cabinets within a locked office and young people have lockable drawers in their bedrooms in which to keep valued and treasured possessions. Young people have access to a telephone without reference to staff and toilet and bathing facilities afford good privacy.

Young people and their parents have unrestricted access to the home's complaints procedure. Young people know how to make a complaint and who to complain to. There is range of complaints information displayed in the home and young people's help and advice lines are also displayed. Young people also have access to advocates. Staff receive training on complaints at induction and the procedures are reinforced periodically at staff team meetings. Complaints are clearly recorded and show action taken and an outcome.

Young people are protected from harm and abuse by staff that are well trained in child protection and safeguarding. Staff are alert to such issues and supervise young people closely. Young people learn about aspects of their personal safety via their individual school's curriculum and these areas are reinforced by staff in direct work and one-to-one discussion with young people. There are no current or ongoing child protection or safeguarding issues at the home.

Young people are protected from bullying by staff that are alert to such conduct and immediately challenge and address such behaviour if it occurs. The close supervision arrangements coupled with the homely and accepting atmosphere established and maintained helps to reduce the likelihood of bullying becoming an issue. There is a missing person's policy and procedure; however unauthorised absences are not a significant issue in the home.

Young people's behaviour is well managed by staff that are appropriately trained in behaviour management. Young people enjoy positive relationships with staff that communicate, interact and engage them appropriately. Young people respond well to staff input in this area and no significant issues in terms of behaviour management or control are evident. There have been no incidents of physical restraint since the last inspection and sanctions are rarely used. Sanctions are clearly recorded in the event.

The home takes active steps to keep young people, staff and visitors safe from the

inherent risks of fire and other potential safety hazards. Standards of cleanliness and hygiene are high throughout the home and no safety hazards are evident in the areas of the premises accessed.

The home has a staff recruitment policy and procedure and has full regard for equal opportunities and equality and diversity throughout its recruitment process. Staff recruitment and vetting procedures are robust and staff personnel files hold all required information including two written references and checks via the Criminal Records Bureau at enhanced level. The home's recruitment arrangements help to ensure only suitable staff are employed to look after the young people.

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.