

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	21 July 2010
Inspector	Alicea Churchward
Type of Inspection	Random

Date of last inspection	8 March 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

This home provides care and accommodation for up to six children and young people of either sex, aged six years to 11 years of age. It is a home run by a local authority. The home is close to local amenities and public transportation is easily accessible from the home. The home is well resourced with a communal lounge, games room, dining area, kitchen, utility room and outdoor play area.

Summary

This was an unannounced interim inspection of the service. The purpose of this visit was to inspect the key standards in relation to the Every Child Matters outcome of staying safe. In addition, the requirements and recommendations made at the time of the last inspection, as well as compliance with the national minimum standards and children's homes regulations, were also monitored .

Young people are making good progress and are positive about the quality of care provided by the home. The home has retained its overall judgement of good. There are no shortfalls in meeting the standards and regulations at the time of this visit. The home is a safe place to live; young people say the rules are fair; they know how to make a complaint; bullying is not tolerated and staff recruitment files are good.

The overall quality rating is good.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

At the time of the last inspection one requirement was issued in respect of obtaining all required information concerning temporary staff. The files now include all the information required. In addition, three recommendations were issued. One was in respect of the manager's monitoring of the home, which has been addressed; and two recommendations in respect of the records of complaints, sanctions and restraint, and again, all of these matters have been addressed.

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 home and staff respect children's and young people's wish for privacy and confidentiality, as is consistent with good parenting and the need to protect the children and young people. A room search policy is in place and any such searches are recorded. Information is stored and dealt with in a confidential manner.

Children and young people know how and feel able to complain if they are unhappy with any aspect of living in the home. Any complaint is addressed seriously and without delay and records demonstrate that this is the case. The manager seeks to resolve any complaints at an early stage. Young people are kept informed about the progress of their complaints and are satisfied with how the home has responded to their concerns.

All of the staff in the home have undertaken safeguarding training. The local authority provides more in depth training to cover a range of matters, a sample of which includes substance abuse and domestic violence and their effects. There are systems in place to promote the safety and welfare of children and to ensure that children are protected from abuse. These are known and understood by all staff. The staff are alert to the risks which may be presented to young people when they are missing or suspected of being exploited.

There have been incidents of verbal bullying which have included racial taunts. The home is dealing with this effectively by developing young people's understanding of culture and ethnicity. They have also engaged support from the local community officer to explain the potential criminal consequences of such behaviours. The registered person and the staff create an atmosphere where bullying is known to be unacceptable. There is a policy on countering bullying, which is known to children, young people and staff, and is effective in practice.

Young people have individual risk assessments in place which outline clearly what action staff should take if they are missing. Absences are not problematic in this home and they are few in number. Any absence is appropriately recorded. Young people in the home are settled in their placement.

Behaviour is managed well. Children and young people say they are dealt with fairly. Records of disciplinary measures meet with regulatory requirements. Staff have all received training in positive behaviour management. Staff respond positively to acceptable behaviour, and where the behaviour of children is regarded as unacceptable by staff, it is responded to by constructive, acceptable and known disciplinary measures approved by the registered person.

The home maintains regular certificated maintenance of all equipment. There is an up to date fire risk assessment in place and drills take place and exceed the number required by the standard. All staff and children have been involved in a drill and evacuation procedures are on display. The home also has risk assessments in relation to individual job roles and the premises. Children and young people have individual risk assessments in place which reflect their individual needs. They live in a home that provides physical safety and security.

All the staff files, with one exception, contain the required information and meet regulatory requirements, including those files for temporary staff. No new staff have been recruited since the time of the last inspection. The exception refers to a staff member no longer used by this home. However an inspection of another service within the local authority showed that the staff file for this employee contained all the necessary information.

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 good.

The manager frequently checks the home's records and compiles a report. If there are any matters arising, they are addressed without delay. Any incidents in the home are monitored as soon as possible and do not wait until the planned monitoring takes place. Monitoring is in line with the regulations.

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.