

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC042978
Inspection date	14 January 2010
Inspector	Jane Rushby
Type of Inspection	Random

Date of last inspection	9 July 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 provides short breaks for young people with learning disabilities and physical disabilities. It provides short breaks for up to five young people at any time from 5 years to under 18 years of age. A total of 43 young people use the service. The home is situated in a busy residential area and is close to shops, parks, cinemas and public transport.

Residential accommodation is provided on the ground floor. A variety of rooms are available for individual or group activities. This includes a dining room, lounge, playroom, and quiet room. There are five single bedrooms. There is an enclosed grassed garden area with a patio to one side of the house and an enclosed patio garden to the other side. The home has a minibus with tail lift.

Summary

At this unannounced interim inspection, all key standards in staying safe were inspected. The other outcomes had all been judged as good or outstanding at the previous key inspection in July 2009. This is a good service. Young people are relaxed and comfortable in the home. Staff respond positively to a range of challenging behaviours. Good procedures are in place to ensure safeguarding and protection of young people which are carried out in practice. There is one recommendation arising from this inspection. During the visit there were three children present, two of whom participated in the inspection.

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 arising from the previous visit.

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 respected and information is confidentially handled. Young people's records are securely stored in the office and staff receive training relating to privacy and confidentiality as part of their induction.

Young people benefit from an effective process for recording and investigating complaints. There has been one complaint received at the home since the previous visit and investigation of this is ongoing. A written record of the complaint giving comprehensive detail including the action taken in response is in place. The manager has identified improvements to practice arising from this matter and changes have been made to procedures with appropriate staff training provided.

Young people benefit from effective safeguarding arrangements. Staff recognise the vulnerability of the children and young people they look after and are vigilant in their observations of their behaviour and environment. Young people at this home do not exhibit bullying behaviours. A

high level of staff supervision ensures that any behaviour does not present a risk to others. New staff are trained in safeguarding procedures during induction and staff respond effectively to allegations or disclosures of abuse. The manager monitors safeguarding and protection matters with a view to identifying required improvements to practice to promote safety. There have been no instances of a young person going missing from this home, however, clear protocols are in place which would require an urgent response due to their level of vulnerability.

Young people benefit from a calm and consistent approach to behaviour management. A parent noted 'dramatic improvements' they have seen in their child since attending the home. Staff respond imaginatively to challenging behaviours, interact positively with the young people and treat them sensitively and with respect. All young people have a detailed individual behaviour plan outlining triggers and appropriate strategies. Where incidents occur, analysis and evaluation of the event informs any required changes to support the young person in improving their behaviour. Sanctions and physical interventions are used sparingly and detailed records kept which cross reference with other documentation, however, the central log recording such incidents has not been completed.

Young people are protected by effective health and safety procedures which are monitored regularly by a named staff member responsible. Individual risk assessments are carried out thoroughly and staff are familiar with the particular needs of all the young people they look after. Risk assessments reflect ongoing changes to the needs of young people.

There are effective procedures in place to ensure that staff are thoroughly checked. Visitors to the home are vetted to ensure the safety of 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.

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

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

- ensure that a central log of sanctions and physical interventions is kept which records the required information (NMS 22.9/10)