

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC044224
Inspection date	16 December 2009
Inspector	Elaine Clare
Type of Inspection	Random

Date of last inspection	10 September 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

This care home offers care and accommodation for young people who have learning disabilities, who are aged from seven to 17 years old. The home is registered to care for young people of both genders, however, at the time of this inspection males occupied all four places. The home is a detached property standing in its own grounds. Accommodation is well maintained and suitably decorated, creating a good first impression. There is an enclosed rear garden, where the young people can play safely and the premises are suitably adapted to support their needs.

The home is situated approximately two miles from the town centre and it is close to bus routes that connect it with the local community and the rail link in the city. The home also has its own vehicle. The home has sufficient space and rooms where the young people can pursue their leisure interests and hobbies. Shops and supermarkets are accessible within the surrounding community.

The organisation responsible also operate an independent 52 week school. It is co-educational and caters for pupils and students from the age of seven years old up to 19 years old. The school has 17 residential places with accommodation provided in four separate houses, within the local area. These properties are registered as children's homes. The organisation's policy is for houses to be detached properties, located in suburban residential areas.

Summary

The inspection was an interim unannounced inspection. The key national minimum standards in the outcome area staying safe were inspected. This is judged as satisfactory. There have been no actions raised at this inspection. The two actions raised at the last inspection have been met.

The overall quality rating is satisfactory.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

There were two actions raised at the last inspection. The home was not operating within the Statement of Purpose and conditions of the home. The situation remains unchanged in that young adults remain living at the home with the young people. Plans are in place to move the young adults from the children's home in April 2010. This has been agreed with Ofsted.

A plan to support the young people beyond school age in their transition into adulthood has been formulated and discussions have been taking place with each local authority about their move into adult care.

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is not judged.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

There are procedures in place for staff to follow in order to keep the children safe. Staff training is provided with regard to safeguarding. This results in a clear and current knowledge of how

to identify forms of abuse and how to respond should there be a safeguarding issue. Procedures also include bullying and what to do should a young person go missing.

Complaints procedures are very clear and there is an emphasis on ensuring that the children's preferred methods of communication are understood by the staff. This ensures that all children have a say about their life and the running of the home. Children have access to advocacy and have a key worker to aid and facilitate any views, concerns and complaints.

The Registered Manager makes sure that the staff understand children's behavioural needs well, and that they know and are trained in diffusing any difficult behaviour. The organisational policy is that the use of physical intervention is only permitted when there is a danger that the child will harm themselves. Details are held on the child's care plan and agreed by parents and placing authorities. There has been one physical intervention since the last inspection. This approach means that each young person is seen as an individual and that staff see them in a very positive light.

The house appears to be safe and there are regular checks on health and safety. There are records of regular checks on fire equipment and fire drills in the home. Risk assessments include an assessment of the risk of fire. This ensures that all who use the building are safe.

There is a recruitment system in the home which maintains appropriate levels of safety for the children. This includes criminal records bureau checks at enhanced level and two references. Application forms are also available and show that gaps in employment are scrutinised. Proof of identity is checked for all staff and is held centrally at Head Office.

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 Children's 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.