

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	28 October 2009
Inspector	Diane Thackrah
Type of Inspection	Random

Date of last inspection	7 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

This children's home is for two young people and sets out to offer young people high quality care in a stable and safe environment. This is achieved by providing an ambience where interpersonal relationships are based on mutual respect and understanding.

The home aims to offer a flexible range of living experiences that are sensitive to individual needs and acknowledge age, race, religion, sexual orientation, disability, and national and ethnic origin.

The staff team are committed to providing an environment which facilitates the young people's growth, maturation, self respect, acceptance of responsibility and development of age appropriate skills and behaviour. This is within the context of the need to provide young people with positive adult role models, guidance and boundaries and achieve within a manner that respects their rights, individuality and dignity.

Two young people currently live in the home but none of them were present during this inspection.

Summary

At this unannounced interim inspection all key national minimum standards relating to the outcome areas staying safe and economic well-being were judged. The inspection also looked at the progress the setting has made with the requirements and recommendation made at the last inspection. The provision has taken appropriate action to address issues regarding staying safe but has not taken action regarding economic well-being. For this reason the overall outcome for this inspection is satisfactory.

Young people live in a home that continues to require work to ensure that it is in line with national minimum standards. There continues to be limited space for staff to work in the office and they continue to use the communal lounge as a sleep-in room. The bathroom is not well maintained and some paintwork around the home is shabby. These issues impact on the young people's enjoyment of their home. In other respects this is a good service. Young people are supported to stay safe. Staff members receive training in areas such as fire safety, safeguarding and behaviour management and the fire safety policies and procedures are good. Young people are protected from bullying and correct action is taken when they go missing. The home's staff recruitment policies and procedures help to keep young people safe and complaints are taken seriously.

The overall quality rating is satisfactory.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

The provider was asked to ensure that the staff have somewhere other than the communal lounge to use as a sleep-in room. This request has been made at the last four inspections of the home since March 2008 and staff continue to sleep in this room. This infringes on the young people's space and does not provide adequate facilities for staff members. The provider was also asked to make improvements to the fire safety systems in the home. These improvements

have now been made and include regular checks on the building's fire fighting equipment. These measures help to promote the safety of young people.

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 continue to be protected by the home's policies and procedures for maintaining privacy and confidentiality. These include the confidential storage of personal files, staff being sensitive to gender issues and young people being able to use a telephone in private. There is a good system for ensuring that complaints can be made and are taken seriously. Young people are formally given an opportunity to raise any concerns they have at a weekly meeting. Staff take action where they can to address these concerns.

There are systems in place for ensuring that child protection is taken seriously. Allegations are investigated under the local authority safeguarding procedures. All staff undergo training in child protection. Staff help to promote the well-being of young people who go missing from the home. Young people have risk assessments regarding situations when they may not return to the home when expected. Staff ensure that young people are reported to all relevant people if they are missing.

Behaviour management in the home remains good. Staff encourage good behaviour and a sense of what is right and wrong. Some physical restraints have recently been used. These were carried out as a last resort before a young person hurts themselves or others. Sanctions are appropriate and fair and these are monitored by management with their effectiveness analysed. Information held about young people's behaviour is detailed and this goes some way to help staff members support young people's needs.

Young people live in an environment that provides them with physical safety. Fire safety is good with regular checks on the building's fire fighting equipment. Other regular safety checks in the building occur. Young people's well-being is promoted by the home's staff recruitment policies and procedures. These include ensuring that all staff members undergo thorough document checks including a criminal records bureau check prior to them commencing work in the home.

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 inadequate.

Young people live in a home that is not well maintained or decorated. The home's bathroom is worn and requires updating. The bath panel is falling off and cracked, the bath is rusty in places and the bath surround is disintegrating. Paintwork around the home continues to be worn and chipped. No action has been taken to rectify these issues despite assurances being

made at the last inspection that this work would occur. In other areas the home is better furnished and adequately decorated. Ongoing concerns have been raised at inspection regarding one of the staff sleep-in rooms that currently doubles as a day room for young people. This situation remains and is a consequence of this being a small home. This infringes on the young people's space and does not provide adequate facilities for staff members.

Young people receive care that helps them prepare for adulthood. Staff members support young people to develop skills for independence. Care plans detail that young people are encouraged to do their own laundry and be involved in menu planning.

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
24	ensure that paintwork around the home is not chipped and worn. (Regulation 31 (2)(e))	30 November 2009
24	ensure that the bathroom is in a good state of repair and the bath is not rusting and cracked. (Regulation 31 (2)(d))	30 November 2009

Recommendations

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

- ensure that staff sleep-in rooms do not form part of the communal living area. (NMS 24)