

Inspection report for Children's Home

Unique reference number	SC047483
Inspection date	19/01/2011
Inspector	Jackie Callaghan
Type of inspection	Random

Date of last inspection	05/08/2010
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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 one of four homes within the company. The manager also oversees another home nearby. The home is registered to provide care for up to two children or young people who have emotional and/or behavioural difficulties; there are currently two young people living at the home.

The home is a detached house situated on a main road. It is a short walk from local amenities and public transport with only a few immediate neighbours. Children and young people have their own bedrooms and access to three living areas and a secure rear garden. Both young people were present at some point at the inspection and one young person contributed verbally to this report.

Summary

The overall quality rating is good.

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

The purpose of this unannounced full inspection was to evaluate the home against the key national minimum standards in staying safe. This visit also considered the two recommendations made at the last inspection. Both recommendations have been met.

This continues to be an good home. The staff team are clearly committed to the children and young people they care for; they celebrate their achievements and support those children and young people when they are going through some difficulties. Staff have an appropriate understanding of safeguarding issues and, as a result, keep children and young people safe.

One recommendation has been set as a result of this visit in regard to recording sanctions.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the Registered Manager was asked develop the medication and the recruitment and selection processes.

The medication recording system now details when new amounts of prescribed medication has been added to the stock. This further promotes children and young people's welfare. No new staff have been recruited to this home, however, the Registered Manager explored how children and young people from their sister home have been involved with the recruitment and selection of new staff. This practice will be used the next time new staff begin at this home. This ensures that children and young people's observations and involvement are been used effectively.

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children and young people's well-being is promoted by the home's policy, procedure and the strengthened practice for administering medicine. Arrangements for managing the receipt, administration and audit of medication are robust and staff are well trained.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children and young people's privacy and confidentiality is promoted by sound guidance and good staff practice. Staff ensure that they do not enter children and young people's rooms without knocking. Children and young people's care records are maintained securely and contents are not discussed inappropriately. Staff are abundantly aware of the children and young people's right to privacy and how this may be safely promoted.

Staff receive ongoing training in child protection that helps underpin safe day-to-day practice. Children and young people may display behaviour which has a negative impact on others. Staff are proactive about managing the differing needs of children and young people through careful planning of activities and close supervision. This ensures that behaviour does not become intimidating or bullying. One young person stated 'I'm not bullied here, I like living here its good'. Children and young people know how to make a complaint and are confident that they would be listened to. No complaints have been received since the last inspection.

Staff are fully aware of the types of behaviour which children and young people may display and accordingly develop appropriate risk assessments that minimise the potential for children and young people to subject themselves or others to harm. Staff know how to respond to challenging behaviours and in circumstances where children and young people may be absent without authority. Children and young people are successfully encouraged to reflect on the consequences of their behaviour after such incidents. This helps them to learn how to take responsibility for their own safety and encourages them to behave appropriately. However, there has been one occasion where the sanctions log records that pocket money had been sanctioned as a response to a young person being verbally abusive. Staff confirmed that the manager had stopped the sanction from taking place and the pocket money log confirms no money had been deducted. However the sanctions log does not detail that this is an inappropriate sanction nor has it been crossed through and signed by the manager in order to demonstrate that it is void.

Staff take positive steps to keep children and young people and visitors safe from all environmental hazards including fire. For example, risk assessments on the environment are completed and updated on a regular basis and staff within the

home are all involved in these routines to ensure that health and safety is promoted by everyone. Frequent checks are undertaken on fire equipment and emergency lighting, and fire drills are regularly completed. As a result, children and young people are living in a home which provides fully for their physical safety and security.

The home has robust procedures in place for the monitoring of visitors to the home. The organisation has a clearly defined recruitment process. This robust practice protects children and young people by ensuring that all of the national minimum standards requirements are met, in all instances, prior to any staff member being deployed into the home. A written record of this process is maintained for inspection and is followed in respect of all staff currently employed.

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?

Recommendations

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

- ensure that the registered person records any comment on the appropriateness of the individual use of sanctions, together with any subsequent action taken, and signs against each entry to confirm that monitoring has taken place. (NMS

22.11)