

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC053145
Inspection date	12 August 2010
Inspector	Anne Bannister
Type of Inspection	Random

Date of last inspection	15 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

The home is a large, two storey detached house set in its own grounds in a quiet village, situated within easy travelling distance of large local towns. It is registered to accommodate two children or young people of either gender. Each child or young person is allocated their own individual bedroom at the home. The home is maintained and furnished to a high standard.

Summary

This was an unannounced interim inspection. As this was an interim inspection, it did not assess all of the key National Minimum Standards. However, the inspection did assess how well the Registered Manager and staff protect and promote the safety of the young people in their care. The inspection also assessed whether one action and one recommendation from the previous key inspection had been addressed. The Registered Manager had reviewed practice to ensure all actions and recommendations had been appropriately actioned. There are good systems in place to ensure young people live in a safe environment and are protected from abuse.

The overall quality rating is good.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

Following the last inspection one action and one recommendation were made. The organisation now obtain all the information set out in Regulation 26 of the children's home regulations 2001, prior to a staff member starting employment. The young person's handbook and the statement of purpose and function have been revised to indicate the new owner of the company.

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 staff team are committed to ensuring that young people in their care are protected from harm. The home has suitable policies on privacy and confidentiality. Staff show a respect for young people's privacy and maintain appropriate levels of confidentiality.

Staff take seriously concerns and complaints raised by young people. Young people are aware of what to do if they are unhappy about something. An independent advocate continues to visit the home once per month and offers a service to all of the young people living there. This practice ensures young people regularly have access to someone outside of the home who is able to raise issues and concerns with staff on their behalf.

There have been no safeguarding referrals made relating to young people accommodated at the home, since the last inspection. The home has clear procedures for responding to child protection concerns. All staff regularly update their safeguarding training. They are fully aware of the action they must take if a young person makes a disclosure to them.

The home has a written procedure for how staff must respond when young people are absent without authority. There is monitoring of the number of instances this occurs, and actions are taken by staff to try to ensure that young people are not continuing to place themselves at risk by this practice.

Good behaviour management systems are employed and staff training is regularly updated. The effectiveness of sanctions on individual young people is being monitored by the management team in order to ensure a consistent approach by the whole staff team. Bullying is not an issue at the home. Records show that when incidents do occur, staff are consistent in their response to dealing with them and carefully monitor the situation to ensure all young people feel safe. Relationships between staff and young people are positive and create a supportive and caring atmosphere. Positive behaviour is rewarded and staff work hard at de-escalating situations.

Evidence and observation show that the Registered Manager and the management team have a responsible attitude towards health and safety matters. The home has risk assessments in place for all aspects of the safety of the premises and grounds. One hazard was identified during the course of the inspection. There are also risk assessments relating to young people's behaviours and planned activities they undertake. These risk assessments are regularly reviewed and updated to ensure young people's continued safety. Visitors are welcomed into the home once they have satisfied staff of their identity and the purpose of their visit, and have signed the visitors book.

The home operates recruitment procedures that meet with the requirements of Schedule 2 of the Children's Home Regulations 2001. Action has been taken to address a deficit in recruitment practice identified in the previous inspection report. This shows that all reasonable steps are taken to ensure that staff employed are suitable to work with 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 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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26	ensure all parts of the home to which children have access are so far as reasonably practicable free from hazards to their safety. In particular this relates to the use of restrictors on windows on the upper floor of the home (Regulation 23).	20 September 2010
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Recommendations

There are no recommendations.