

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC060034
Inspection date	9 March 2010
Inspector	David Martin
Type of Inspection	Random

Date of last inspection	15 October 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 is owned by a registered charity. It provides respite care and short breaks for young people who have a learning disability or a social and communication disability within the autistic spectrum. Young people may also have associated physical disabilities. The home is a purpose-built, six bedroom bungalow situated in a small town about 15 miles from a large city. There are public transport links into the city. Young people continue to attend their schools during their stay.

Each young person has a single bedroom, four of which have en-suite facilities. There are two bathrooms, one equipped with a 'Parker' bath. Communal accommodation comprises of a dining room, lounge, sensory room and games/play room. There is a staff office and kitchen. There is an enclosed garden with a range of play equipment and car parking is to the front of the house.

Summary

This unannounced interim inspection was carried out to assess the home's performance against national minimum standards in the staying safe outcome area. A check was also made regarding compliance with actions and recommendations contained in the last inspection report.

The home is providing young people with a safe environment and has measures in place to ensure that young people are protected from harm. Staff have access to on-going training in safeguarding and the management of challenging behaviour. Since the last inspection the home has developed a range of communication tools to ensure that the young people have information about the way in which the home is run. Staff have also completed annual appraisals to ensure that they can keep their practice up to date.

The overall quality rating is good.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

Since the last inspection the home has developed a wide range of communication tools and has been effective in ensuring that all young people have access to information about making complaints and about the way in which the home runs. Staff have completed annual appraisals to ensure that their individual training needs are identified and their performance is being monitored.

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 privacy and dignity of young people is promoted. Some of the young people have keys to their bedrooms. Bathroom doors are lockable and four bedrooms have en-suite bathing facilities. Support with personal care is carried out discreetly. All records are held securely and staff have a good understanding of issues of confidentiality. This contributes to the safety of the young people.

There have been no complaints in the period since the last inspection. The home has responded well to a recommendation concerning the accessibility of information about making complaints. A pictorial guide and a talking photograph book have been developed. The young people have information about external agencies including details of the regulatory authority. This ensures that young people's views are taken seriously.

There have been no safeguarding referrals since the last inspection. Staff have completed child protection training and refresher training is booked. They are confident about reporting their concerns and understand issues relating to the need to share information.

There are no current concerns about bullying in the home. The young people have pictorial information raising their awareness of anti-bullying issues. Young people's meetings are also used to promote an anti-bullying culture within the home. Young people are protected by these measures.

There have been no recent incidents of young people going missing from the home. Given the nature of the young people's disabilities, they require a close level of individual supervision at all times. This is identified and managed through individual risk assessments and care planning. All care plans are reviewed regularly.

The staff have completed training in managing challenging behaviour and have a range of skills and techniques to avoid confrontation. There has been a small number of incidents requiring the use of physical intervention since the last inspection. This has consisted of guiding young people away from situations. Sanctions are not applied as the home prefers young people to take time out. The home actively promotes positive behaviour.

The premises are safely maintained ensuring that young people are not exposed to environmental risks. Staff are only employed following robust vetting including Criminal Records Bureau checks. Staff have regular supervision and since the last inspection have completed annual appraisals. These measures contribute to the overall safety and well being 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 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.