

Inspection report for Children's Home

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Inspector	Sharron Escott
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Date of last inspection	07/06/2010
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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

A private organisation owns and operates this children's home. It is situated in an urban area of a city close to local transport and amenities. The organisation also has similar services located in the area.

The setting supports and cares for a maximum of one young person of either sex between the ages of 12 and 17 years who has complex emotional and behavioural difficulties. The unit specialises in the care of more vulnerable individuals who may be at risk or pose a specific risk to others and/or themselves.

Through its approaches the home seeks to enable young people to recognise and accept responsibility for their inappropriate behaviours. It then encourages the development of more socially acceptable sustainable behaviours to improve young people's quality of life as they move towards independence.

The organisation has a team of specialist practitioners who provide professional support and guidance for care staff and young people.

The organisation provides an approved behavioural approach to education known as the 'Award Scheme for Development and Accreditation Network' which follows the National Curriculum and encompasses a behavioural approach. Designated facilities are provided and appropriately trained staff are employed to deliver the scheme.

Summary

The overall quality rating is satisfactory.

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

This was an unannounced interim inspection that covered the national minimum standards in the Every Child Matters outcome area of staying safe. At the previous key inspection in June 2010 the overall judgement was rated as outstanding.

Beck House is currently not providing accommodation to children and young people. Our inspection methodology relies on evidence found at the time of inspection and this essentially includes user's views about the service. As this evidence is not available when there are no children and young people present we have completed a proportionate inspection; the purpose of which is to decide that should an admission be made the service would be able to work to a satisfactory standard.

The home's staff team have been redeployed within the larger organisation. Recruitment procedures are in process for the appointment of a manager who will apply to be the Registered Manager once successful.

Improvements since the last inspection

No actions or recommendations were raised from the last Key inspection

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 comprehensive policies and procedures in place which promote privacy and confidentiality. The supporting manager explained how privacy and dignity of the young people is promoted in their day-to-day care when in placement. There are facilities available for the young people to make and receive calls in private, or they may use their mobile telephone subject to risk assessment and in accordance with their care and placement plans.

The young people's guide contains all information to enable young people to make complaints in relation to the home. The central complaints log identifies no complaints have been made since the last inspection. The supporting manager informed the inspector that currently a training schedule for complaints is not provided.

Safeguarding awareness is covered as part of all staff induction and, additional to this, a refresher annual training programme is available. During this inspection the training matrix was not accessible for viewing, however, the supporting manager confirmed the training arrangements for management and care staff. This includes all management attending a three-day safeguarding course provided by the local authority.

The home has a detailed policy and procedure about bullying. The supporting manager confirmed that bullying has not been a problem within the home.

Policies and procedures are in place regarding what actions staff should take in the event of young people being absent without authority. The supporting manager stated that each young person has an individualised missing from home plan; this is agreed with their placing authority and in consultation with the young person based on their age and risk assessment. The supporting manager informed me that the home has established links and partnerships with the police. A comprehensive protocol is on file that evidences appropriate procedures for staff when liaising with the police when young people go missing.

Behaviour management policies, procedures and guidance are on file. The use of sanctions and restraint is minimal, however, the central sanction log identified a late

entry that was not specific in detail and the effectiveness of this sanction was not recorded and monitored.

A detailed fire risk assessment is on file including gas and electrical safety checks, carried out at recommended intervals. However, the central file does not evidence that a night time evacuation has taken place within the last 12 months. This has a potential risk that young people will not know the correct drill in the event of a fire at night. Fire safety systems are installed and maintained.

The organisation has a thorough recruitment process that ensures all necessary checks are completed prior to a member of staff starting work. The supporting manager confirmed that a dedicated team and acting manager have been identified to work in the home when placements are agreed. This service would be able to operate to a satisfactory standard should an admission be made.

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 the fire drills, including the evacuation of staff and children at night take place in a 12 month period, and recorded (NMS 26.8)
- ensure the registered person records any comments on the appropriateness of individual uses of sanctions, together with any subsequent action taken, and signs against each entry to confirm monitoring has taken place. (NMS 22.11)