

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	14 December 2009
Inspector	Roy Bega
Type of Inspection	Random

Date of last inspection	26 May 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

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 18 years who has complex emotional behavioural and educational 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 various approaches the home seeks to enable young people in recognising and accepting responsibility for their inappropriate behaviours. It then encourages the development of more socially acceptable sustainable behaviours to improve young people's quality of life 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

This is an unannounced interim inspection. Only the key standards relating to the outcome group staying safe were assessed on this occasion.

There were no actions or recommendations raised resulting from the previous or this inspection.

Young people benefit from the home's excellent procedural guidance on privacy and confidentiality. Staff have excellent knowledge and understanding of safeguarding issues and receive annual training. Children and young people are appropriately safeguarded by the organisation's robust and stringent recruitment procedures. Through consistency, continuity and development of positive relationships the home promotes supporting individuals in developing self control and socially acceptable behaviour.

The overall quality rating is outstanding.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

There were no actions or recommendations raised resulting from the previous full 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 outstanding.

Young people benefit from the home's excellent procedural guidance on privacy and confidentiality. Staff respect young people's privacy and confidentiality as is consistent with good parenting and in accordance with identified needs.

There is an open culture in the home of staff listening to young people and encouraging them to raise any concerns. Detailed records are kept of complaints, investigations and outcomes. Records and discussions show there have not been any concerns raised since the last visit

The welfare of young people is effectively promoted within the home. Young people benefit from staff having sound knowledge and understanding of their needs. Staff work closely with the courts, other agencies and families in continually monitoring associated safeguarding concerns. When required by the courts, they also provide supervised contact and home visits. Specific risk assessments are completed before any activity is undertaken. Staff have an excellent understanding of the home's safeguarding procedures and receive annual training. Parents and young people are provided with appropriate information regarding the home's safeguarding protocols and procedures. No safeguarding issues have been raised subsequent to the previous inspection.

Through consistency, continuity and development of positive relationships the home promotes supporting individuals in developing self control and socially acceptable behaviour. This creates an atmosphere where bullying is known to be unacceptable. Staff are vigilant about their relationships between themselves and young people.

Detailed action plans are in place on how staff are to respond to young people being absent from the home and on trips without authority. When a young person does go missing they are well protected by prompt liaison with the police, parents where necessary and the placing authority. There has been one incident of a young person becoming absent since the last inspection visit. Specific risk assessments are completed before any external activity is undertaken.

The home specialises in providing residential care for young people who have severe psychological emotional and related behaviour disorders. Specialist staff employed by the organisation support the home in meeting the needs of young people. There are also excellent working relationships with external agencies. Staff show professionalism in assisting young people to develop socially acceptable behaviours. They obtain extensive knowledge of young people's needs and are versatile in supporting them. Weekly one to one sessions with their key worker gives young people opportunities to discuss behaviour related issues and any other matters of their choosing. There are continuing positive changes in behaviour and attitudes. Staff receive annual training in the use of acceptable de-escalation and positive holding methods and maintain their knowledge within the confines of staff meetings.

There is a culture within the home where safety is maintained as a high priority. Comprehensive policies and procedures underpin and promote good practice in relation to safety. There are established systems for ensuring a safe environment is provided for young people. A member of staff is a designated health and safety officer and has completed appropriate training. All staff receive health and safety training. Young people are given practical advice in relation to safety. Risk assessments for the environment and activities are reviewed and revised as necessary.

There is a high awareness of fire safety among staff and young people. All staff and young people are given fire safety instructions when they arrive. Fire drills are carried out within the required timescales and at different times of the day and night. Fire safety equipment is checked regularly and a detailed record kept.

Young people are appropriately safeguarded by the organisation's robust and stringent recruitment procedures. Good quality internal monitoring and audits of recruitment files are undertaken to ensure that all appropriate checks within Schedule 2 of the children's homes national minimum standards and regulations are sought prior to staff commencing employment.

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.