

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC061837
Inspection date	28 October 2009
Inspector	Carole Moore
Type of Inspection	Random

Date of last inspection	10 July 2009
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You can obtain copies of The Children Act 2004, Every Child Matters and The National Minimum Standards for Children's Services from: The Stationery Office (TSO) PO Box 29, St Cripins, Duke Street, Norwich, NR3 1GN. Tel: 0870 600 5522. Online ordering: www.tso.co.uk/bookshop

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

This is an independently operated children's home on a working arable farm, situated in Warwickshire. It is a small group home for adolescents with behavioural difficulties resulting from past emotional or physical trauma.

Summary

This inspection was unannounced and focussed on the key standards in the Every Child Matters outcome group of staying safe. It also looked at progress to rectify one recommendation raised at the last inspection in July 2009 in relation to the home's insurance. Three children were present during this inspection.

The last inspection found the service to be outstanding in all areas of practice and this inspection makes no change to that judgement.

The overall quality rating is outstanding.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

The organisation demonstrates a commitment to meeting and exceeding the national minimum standards and to developing outstanding quality care for young people. The home was recommended to ensure the certificate of insurance specifies the name and address of the home and this is now in place.

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 are clearly benefiting from a service that has an outstanding focus on safeguarding and protection matters. Operational policies, procedures and staff guidance are used effectively to promote everybody's safety and welfare. Young people are frequently and consistently engaged by staff in how to keep themselves and others safe. Young people benefit from living in a home where there are excellent arrangements in place to ensure staff are trained and well informed about effective safeguarding practices. Young people are fully protected because staff recognise and understand their role in child protection and know what action to take if there are concerns.

Young people's privacy is respected and information confidentially handled. Staff knock and wait before entering young people's bedrooms, except when young people are considered at risk. Records are securely stored and staff are clear on how to keep information confidential. Young people can make and receive private telephone calls as long as it is assessed as being safe for the young person to do so.

Young people live in a home where bullying is not allowed and where any form of unwanted behaviour is challenged. Staff provide regular and specific feedback to young people about their behaviour with a clear focus on setting fair and reasonable boundaries. Young people

understand what is expected of them and they are rewarded and given clear incentives for good behaviour. Sanctions and physical interventions are used and the home's philosophy is carried out in practice in terms of its behaviour management policy.

Young people's views and opinions about their care is valued because the home's staff are conscientious and child-focused. There are good systems in place for managing complaints. Each young person's right to complain is supported by the staff team and there are a variety of avenues to complain. For example, in one to one discussion with staff, in the young people's weekly meetings and the more formal written approach.

There are good systems in place which are used successfully for young people when they are absent without authority. Risk assessments are recorded in relation to each young person's vulnerability when absent from the home and staff follow a protocol with the local police. This helps to safeguard young people's welfare.

The home protects young people by ensuring a range of environmental risk assessments have been undertaken and regularly reviewed. The risk assessments cover all aspects of safety of the premises and grounds including fire and young people's behaviour and activities. These assessments are taken into account in the daily activities in the home. A similar process is followed for activities outside of the home, for example, trips out. The fire log book shows that there are regular checks of the alarm systems and the home has completed the required number of fire drills or evacuations and there is always a fire drill when a young person moves into the placement.

Young people are protected by robust staff recruitment procedures and records of a new member of staff confirmed that all relevant checks have been carried out. Verbally checking references and checking any gaps in work history is an integral part of the recruitment process. The home is selective, with the recruitment of the right person being more important than the filling of the vacancy.

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 Childrens 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.