

Inspection report for Children's Home

Unique reference number	SC061878
Inspection date	28/10/2010
Inspector	Wendy Anderson
Type of inspection	Random

Date of last inspection	10/06/2010
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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

The home is one of a number of children's services operated by the provider. The home is a six-bedroom detached house in its own grounds, in a rural location. It is close to a local town and all its facilities. The service was registered in November 2004 as a children's home for four young people with emotional or behavioural problems.

Summary

The overall quality rating is good.

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

This was an unannounced random inspection and all the key standards under staying safe were inspected as were those standards where actions and recommendation were made at the last inspection.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection there was one action and two recommendations made. The action was to ensure that all staff receive supervision at the intervals specified in the national minimum standards. There has been some improvement but this has not been consistent. The two recommendations were to ensure that the temperature of the home fridges and freezers are consistently recorded and comply with the recommended temperature ranges as specified by the environmental health department. Also to ensure that the records of disposed medication contains the date of disposal and the name of the member of staff disposing of the medication. Both of these recommendation have been actioned.

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.

Young people are protected and safe at the home. Staff ensure that information about young people is securely stored and that their privacy is respected by knocking on their doors and asking 'if it's ok' before entering. All the bathrooms and toilets within the home provide appropriate privacy for young people. This is supported by

the homes policy on privacy. There is an appropriate policy on room searches in place which states that wherever possible room searches are carried out in the presence of the young person. Where a young person is not present they are informed. Room searches are carried out by two staff and these searches are appropriately recorded.

Young people are told how to make a complaint when they are admitted with this information being revisited regularly at key work sessions. Information on the home complaint process is in the young person guide.

Clear steps are taken to safeguard young people. The staff are trained in and are knowledgeable about safeguarding procedures including arrangements of the Local Safeguarding Children Board. The manager knows when to report or seek advice from professionals outside the home. There have not been any safeguarding incidents since the last inspection. The home has a robust safeguarding policy in place.

Staff at the home are alert to the possibility of bullying between the young people; know what signs to look for and how to respond if it is reported. Young people know that they can report bullying to staff or at their house meetings or key work sessions and that staff will take action to deal with it quickly. The home's policies and procedures provide clear guidance for staff on bullying. This includes information on cyber bullying via the internet or mobile phones. There is a robust system for recording incident of bullying.

There are clear procedures in place for young people who are absent without authority which are linked to young peoples individual risk assessments and behaviour plans. Records kept of these incidents are clear and include information on debrief session held with young people upon their return. Since the last inspection no young people have gone missing.

Young people are encouraged to develop socially acceptable behaviour. The focus of the home is the reinforcement of positive behaviours. Each young person has goals to achieve daily for which they receive a financial reward. Young people also earn points towards more significant rewards by their positive behaviour, such as a trips or attending events of their choice. Sanctions at the home are fair, appropriate and well recorded including the young person views on the sanction. The home has an appropriate policy and procedure for the restraint of young people. There have been only two restraints since the last inspection. Where restraints do take place these are appropriately recorded including the views of the young people. Staff receive regular update training on restraint and behaviour management. Regular meetings with the young people are used to talk about their behaviour towards one another, including when necessary, any bullying issues.

The home has a clear policy on the reporting of significant events to the appropriate organisations and these are made within 24 hours of the event.

Young people know what they should do in the event of a fire at the home through

regular fire briefing and information within the young persons guide. Records confirm that the alarm systems are tested regularly and other procedures are in place to ensure maintenance of equipment and installations. However there was no clear evidence recorded of the extended emergency lighting test have been completed. Regular fire drills are held but there has been no night time drill since 15 July 2009. Risk assessments are used to identify and reduce risks from hazards around the building, grounds and activities by young people. These are reviewed and updated regularly.

The home has a robust selection and recruitment procedure which protects young people. A human resources specialist is responsible for undertaking recruitment checks for all new staff to the organisation. In general, checks undertaken exceed what is required. Wherever possible young people are involved in the interview process for new staff, but it is the young people's choice as to whether they are involved in this process.

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/s meets the Care Standards Act 2000, Children's Homes Regulations 2001

and the National Minimum Standards. The Registered Provider(s) must comply with the given timescales.

Std.	Action	Due date
28	ensure that staff supervision happens at the interval as required by National Minimum Standard 28.2 (Regulation 27)	31/12/2010
26	ensure that a night time fire drill is carried out at least once in a 12 month period and that records are kept of the extended emergency lighting tests as outlined in National Minimum Standard 26.8. (Regulation 32 (1)(e))	31/12/2010