

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC063380
Inspection date	2 March 2010
Inspector	Suzanne Young
Type of Inspection	Random

Date of last inspection	4 August 2009
--------------------------------	---------------

© Crown copyright 2010

Website: www.ofsted.gov.uk

This document may be reproduced in whole or in part for non-commercial educational purposes, provided that the information quoted is reproduced without adaptation and the source and date of publication are stated.

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

The home provides care for up to four young people on a medium to long-term basis. The property is a large, detached Victorian family house set in its own grounds in a quiet residential area within walking distance of a local shopping centre. The aim of the home is to offer individualised support designed to achieve stability and to prepare for independence where identified. Education can be provided by a range of local schools or by the company's own school. Therapeutic provision is available to young people as identified within their placement plans.

Summary

This was an unannounced interim inspection. The home received a full inspection in August 2009. This visit concentrated on the Every Child Matters outcome area for staying safe. Three young people currently living in the home participated in some of the inspection process.

At the last full inspection the home was judged as good overall. All outcome areas were judged as good with the exception of enjoying and achieving which was considered outstanding and economic wellbeing which was considered satisfactory. Following this inspection staying safe is judged as being good. The home continues to provide an environment that is safe and secure for the young people in its care.

The home has two minor shortfalls regarding fire prevention training and staff knowledge of Local Safeguarding Children Board Procedures.

The overall quality rating is good.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

Following the last inspection the home was recommended to follow qualified medical or nursing advice in a written protocol on the provision of non-prescription medicine to young people, provide appropriate training to staff for the storing, disposing and administration of medication and ensure young people's privacy and confidentiality is maintained in all areas of the home's operation. These have all been met.

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 home provides an environment that is safe and secure and which provides good arrangements for the promotion, protection and care of children and young people. Staff generally have a good awareness of safeguarding, anti-bullying and unauthorised absence procedures which help safeguard young people and which ensures their privacy and welfare are being promoted. However, although all staff attend regular child protection training new members of staff are limited in their knowledge of Local Safeguarding Children Board Procedures and copies are not readily accessible for all staff.

Staff promote and respect young people's privacy. For instance, all young people have their own bedroom which is lockable and which they are able to personalise. All records are kept confidentially.

Clear policies and procedures are established for dealing with complaints. Staff support young people to raise any issues of concern openly and the process of making a complaint is clearly understood by young people. This is regularly re-enforced during weekly children's meetings.

Good behaviour management systems are in place that encourages young people to develop socially acceptable behaviour through the use of rewards and incentives. The home identifies measures required to keep each young person safe in individual placement plans and through detailed risk assessments. These are specific to young people and incorporate behaviour management strategies, agreed consequences and methods of restraint and the procedures for staff to take if young people are absent without permission. These are all agreed with young people in advance and are further explored and reviewed in key worker sessions. Consequences and physical restraints are kept to a minimum and are used appropriately and only when necessary. Staff are all trained in particular behaviour management methods to guide their practice in the use of physical restraints.

Good procedures are in place to protect young people from fire. Fire systems are regularly tested and both staff and young people undertake fire drills in excess of requirements. Only two members of staff however have received fire safety instruction as recently organised training has been postponed. This could compromise young people's safety.

Staff personnel files were not accessed at this inspection as these are held at a central location at the organisations head office. The Registered Manager confirmed that no new member of staff starts work in the home until all the necessary vetting checks have been completed. All visitors to the home are monitored because they are required to provide evidence of their identity and to sign a visitor's book.

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
26	make arrangements for persons working at the home to receive suitable training in fire prevention (Regulation 32 (d))	30 April 2010

Recommendations

To improve the quality and standards of care further the registered person should take account of the following recommendation(s):

- ensure a copy of the Local Safeguarding Children Board Procedures is kept in the home and staff read these and are knowledgeable about them. (NMS 17.3)