

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	9 November 2009
Inspector	Michelle Moss
Type of Inspection	Random

Date of last inspection	4 June 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

The home offers accommodation to six young people. The building is designed in a way that offers plenty of space to the young people, including a large lawn garden area to the rear of the building. The ground floor of the building consists of a living room, dining room, computer and arts room, kitchen, laundry room and access to a private telephone.

The home is within easy reach of places of worship, shops, restaurants, local community markets and a range of community activity centres.

The first floor is designed to have two separate landing and bedroom areas. Each side consists of three single bedrooms, storage cupboards, shower and toilet facilities and a communal area on each landing with soft seating. Between the landings are additional toilet and bathing facilities.

Summary

This was interim inspection that has looked at the progress the home has made in regards to three actions and recommendations raised at the last full inspection. Also, staying safe has been re-inspected to reassess outcomes for young people. The home has addressed all previous identified shortfalls and in doing so, has enhanced the welfare and participation of young people. The young people continue to be supported by a dedicated staff team whose care practice helps to keep them safe.

The overall quality rating is good.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

Improvements have been made to enhance outcomes for young people. This has included young people being encouraged to contribute to their placement plan. Also, the plan is more explicit about how the staff help to address issues that arise out of a young person's ethnicity, race, faith or belief. These improvements provide more person centred care that is as individual as young people are themselves.

Better monitoring on the conduct on the home is taking place through increased regulation 33 visits and follow up reports. These visits help to increase the effective monitoring on the home's performance to safeguard young people. Furthermore, the home now has a system in place to ensure repairs are addressed in a timely manner, to reduce any impact on the safety and welfare of young people and staff.

Young people are encouraged, following a restraint and imposed sanction, to record their comments on the action taken by staff. This increased transparency in staff practice enables young people to exercise their rights.

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 staff team continue to enhance the safety of young people through a wide range of good practices and management of records. This is centralised around the placement plan that secures the knowledge about young people's needs. This includes assessing known risks and undertaking assessments that help to continue to keep young people safe. This extends to countering bullying, protecting young people from abuse and having safeguards developed for when young people put themselves at risk from being missing from home.

There are highly effective systems operated to secure the health and safety of young people. This includes fire safety checks and securing advice from fire officers. Young people are able to raise concerns with the knowledge their complaints are listened to and addressed. Privacy is respected by staff knocking on doors before entering, ensuring information held about young people is stored safely and making sure young people can receive and make private calls.

The staff team base their management of behaviour on an active encouragement on what is socially acceptable. This is triggered by staff seeing young people in a positive light and ensuring praise is part of everyday practice. The staff continue to see physical restraint as a last resort. When it has been necessary to use such measures, a record is made that provides a detailed account of the incident. This is then evaluated by the manager. It includes looking at staff practice and identifying patterns and trends that need further investigation. This self regulation towards practice increases the safeguards that protect the health and welfare of young people.

The vetting of staff and visitors remains thorough to help ensure young people's safety is protected.

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.