

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	5 January 2010
Inspector	Bill Drumm
Type of Inspection	Random

Date of last inspection	24 March 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

This children's home provides care and accommodation for up to five children, of either sex, aged from 8 years to 17 years, who have a learning disability. One to one care and supervision is provided for the young people because of their high levels of need.

The home is a large detached house in an area of mixed residential and commercial property. Each young person has their own bedroom. The home provides two waking staff during the night. There is a small parking area at the front of the property and a separate garden area, which is equipped for the young people's recreation. The home is set on the outskirts of the town centre and there are adequate schooling, leisure and shopping facilities in this area.

Summary

This was an unannounced interim inspection of the home. The outcomes for young people in the area of staying safe were inspected and found to be good. Recommendations made at the previous inspection were also looked at. All recommendations made at the previous inspection have been met. Three recommendations have been made following this inspection and the overall quality rating of the home remains good.

Five young people currently live at the home, all of whom were present during the inspection. However, due to their level of understanding none were able to contribute directly to the inspection process.

The overall quality rating is good.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

Since the last inspection the home's manager has introduced a system for ensuring that written records of any sanctions are fully maintained.

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 treated with dignity and respect. The home has policies and procedures in place for when it is necessary to carry out a search of a young person's bedroom. No room searches have ever been carried out at the home. The home has sufficient number of bathrooms, showers and toilets, to meet the needs of the young people living there. Each young person has their own bedroom, which is individually decorated and furnished. Where possible, young people are encouraged to attend to their own personal care. However, those young people who need assistance with personal care are helped in a discreet and sensitive manner by members of staff.

Young people are able to complain if they feel unhappy about anything. The home has policies and procedures in place for dealing with complaints thoroughly and effectively. The young people's guide to the home gives clear details of who young people can contact if they are

unhappy about anything. The young people's guide is easy to understand, is written in plain English and makes full use of pictures and graphics to aid understanding. There have been no complaints made at the home since the last inspection. Members of staff working at the home, have however, received many compliments from satisfied parents, social workers and other professionals involved with the young people who stay at the home, thanking them for the exceptional levels of care and support they have provided.

Young people living at the home are fully protected from exploitation or abuse. Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB) procedures are available in the home and all members of staff have received training in child protection and safeguarding. There has been one child protection referral made since the last inspection. Records show that this was dealt with effectively and promptly by the appropriate agency.

Young people are protected from bullying. The home has policies and procedures in place to advise members of staff of what action to take if a young person is being bullied. Each young person has a thorough and up to date risk assessment, which includes the likelihood of them being a bully or being a victim of bullying. Members of staff working at the home have received training in countering bullying. There have been no incidents of bullying since the last inspection.

There have been no occasions since the last inspection when a young person has been absent without authority. Members of staff provide consistently high levels of care and supervision to young people to help keep them safe and well.

Young people are assisted and encouraged to develop socially acceptable behaviour. Behaviour management strategies are in place for each young person. The home has policies and procedures in place, for the safe holding and restraint of young people. Members of staff have all received training in safe holding techniques. Restraint records are maintained and there have been a number of occasions since the last inspection where it has been necessary for young people to be held or restrained. Restraint records are retained in a separate bound and numbered book used specifically for that purpose. A copy of each restraint or hold used is not retained on each young person's individual file. Sanctions records are also maintained. No sanctions have been imposed on young people because of their behaviour. Members of the staff team do not use sanctions as a means of promoting good behaviour, preferring instead to use encouragement, guidance and support.

Young people, members of staff and visitors are protected from fire and other hazards within the home. All visitors to the home are asked to identify themselves and to sign the visitors book prior to being given entry to the building. The home does not have a specific insurance certificate that shows the home has current public and employee liability insurance to a minimum value.

The home has a stable, consistent and committed staff team. There are good recruitment and selection processes in place. Safety checks are carried out to ensure the suitability of each applicant. Full written details of each criminal records bureau (CRB) check, carried out on each member of staff is not retained within the home. Members of staff have provided references from previous employers or those that know them.

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

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

- ensure that a copy of any restraint used on a young person is retained in their personal file (NMS 22.9)
- ensure that the home has current Public and Employee Liability insurance up to a minimum value (NMS 26.9)
- update information retained within the home relating criminal records bureau checks carried out for each member of staff. (NMS 27.2)