

Inspection report for Children's Home

Unique reference number	SC064027
Inspection date	08/03/2011
Inspector	Chris Scully
Type of inspection	Random

Date of last inspection	10/11/2010
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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

This children's home provides care and accommodation for up to five children, of either sex, aged from eight 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.

There were five young people resident in the home on the day of inspection and for most of the visit, all were at their educational placement. When two returned they were unable to contribute to this inspection due to their profound learning disabilities.

Summary

The overall quality rating is outstanding.

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

At this unannounced inspection all of the key standards in staying safe were inspected. All other key standards were inspected at the key inspection in November 2010 and were all judged as outstanding.

This is an outstanding service. Young people are relaxed and comfortable in the home. Staff have an exceptional understanding of young people's individual needs and behaviours. As a result are able to keep young people safe while continuing to support their independence. Records and documentation continue to be of an extremely high standard. Very good procedures are in place to ensure the safeguarding and protection of young people, which are effectively put into practice by staff. The promotion of equality and diversity continues to be outstanding.

There are no recommendations following this inspection. Three young people were present during the inspection and appeared happy and relaxed in staff's company.

Improvements since the last inspection

No actions or recommendations were raised at the previous inspection visit.

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 live in a safe, secure environment and are effectively protected from harm. Staff are respectful of young people's privacy, which is in line with good parenting. Staff ensure the privacy and dignity of young people at all times, for example, instigating effective systems to support young people's personal care needs. Information about young people is managed confidentially and is held securely in the office. The accommodation provides space where young people can relax easily and spend time alone when they wish, for example, sleeping in the sensory room. Young people's views on how the home is run and managed are actively sought by staff. Young people state that they enjoy going to the farm to muck out the horses and the theme nights. They have put forward several suggestions as to which countries they would like to look at next, which include Greece and Poland.

There have been no complaints since the home opened. There are clear reporting procedures in place should young people wish to make a complaint. Young people are protected by staff who ensure that young people's safety is one of their highest priorities. All staff are very well trained in safeguarding and are knowledgeable about the safeguarding policies and reporting procedures. Young people's safety is enhanced by staff's extensive knowledge of them, which means that they are able to effectively identify any potential signs of abuse. Bullying is not an issue in the home. This is due to staff's vigilance and the nature of the young people. There are no incidents of young people going missing from the home. This is due to the high staffing levels, the security of the premises and skills and expertise of the staff.

Staff manage challenging behaviour effectively, they are skilled in de-escalating situations, which helps bring about a quick resolution to the situation. Records of any incidents or physical interventions are exceptionally well recorded. They demonstrate staff's skill in calming difficult situations while ensuring the safety and well-being of all those involved. Young people's comprehensive behaviour management plans are revised in accordance with any changes in young people's behaviour. This ensures they remain accurate and provide the most effective support for the young people. Sanctions are not applied due to the level of the young people's understanding. Staff discuss issues with young people and explain perhaps why they cannot attend an activity. Young people acknowledge that this was because they were 'being silly.' While they do not attend that day this is rescheduled so that young people do not miss out. Staff always offer verbal praise to young people, which effectively fosters their self-esteem and encourages positive behaviour. As a result there is a minimal amount of physical intervention carried out.

The comprehensive risk assessments for the home and individuals mean young people are kept safe. As staff are able to minimise or eliminate potential risks. For example, replacing a bedroom window with toughened glass to reduce the risk of this being damaged. Risk assessments take into account the individual needs of the young people, their behaviours and activities in the home and the community. Staff regularly carry out robust health and safety checks including fire drills. However, the record of fire drills is not up to date as it does not show the most recent drills.

Young people are protected by effective staff vetting procedures. Regular Criminal Records Bureau checks are undertaken on all staff and staff are required to disclose any future incidents, which may affect their suitability. Similarly all those who are able to drive the home's bus must inform the Registered Manager of any driving offences. These procedures ensure the ongoing safety of young people. All visitors sign in and out of the premises and are only admitted to the home once satisfactory identification has been produced. All visitors to the home are effectively monitored while on the premises.

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?

Recommendations

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

- ensure there is an up to date record of any fire drills that have taken place in the last 12 months. (National minimum standards 26.8)