

Inspection report for Children's Home

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Inspector	Mick Earl
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Date of last inspection	02/03/2010
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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 provides care and accommodation for up to six young people, aged from eight years old up to 17 years old.

The home is a large three storey detached house. The ground floor comprises a kitchen, lounge, dining room, quiet room, laundry, toilet and staff office. On the first floor, the house has three bedrooms and one family size bathroom. Office space and sleep-in accommodation for staff is also provided on this floor. On the second floor, there is a further office and sleep-in accommodation for members of staff, in addition to three bedrooms with en-suite shower and toilet facilities used by young people, and a family size bathroom. Included on the second floor, is a corridor that leads to a separate self-contained flat. The flat has its own bathroom with toilet, an open plan lounge/dining room, kitchen and bedroom. A further bedroom is available for members of staff to use as an office or sleep-in accommodation.

The home is close to a local park. There are bus routes nearby to the town where young people can access shops, leisure and transport facilities.

Summary

The overall quality rating is good.

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

The national minimum standards for the Every Child Matters outcome of Staying Safe were sampled. This identified that the home has many strengths. These are in supporting young people's privacy and confidentiality, providing individual support, providing a physically safe home, promoting the protection of young people and safe staff recruitment.

There are areas for improvement which include the evidence of staff training, the provision of looked after children documentation, providing an updated and accessible Statement of Purpose and ensuring a night time fire drill takes place.

Improvements since the last inspection

The actions at the last inspection asked the service to ensure that the home's statement of purpose was available in an easily accessible format and that the home had all of the appropriate Looked After Children documentation for each young person. These actions have not been met.

They were also asked to ensure that formal supervision records are available for all members of staff. This action has 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.

Young people benefit from effective policies, procedures and practices that ensure their safety is protected and they are kept free from harm.

Staff and young people are fully aware of the complaints procedure and there have been no complaints since the last inspection. Complaints information is well recorded and previous records show that prompt action is taken to investigate any complaint. This helps to show that concerns raised are taken seriously.

The Local Safeguarding Children Board's procedures are in place. All members of staff receive training in the protection of young people and demonstrate a good knowledge and understanding of safeguarding procedures. Young people are protected from bullying through the home's policies, procedures and the practice of the staff. Young people spoken with say that bullying is not tolerated and no bullying is taking place in the home.

Young people say they like living at the home. There are clear procedures in place for staff to follow when a young person is absent without permission and there have been no incidents since the last inspection.

Members of staff encourage and support young people to develop and maintain socially acceptable behaviour. There are clear and detailed procedures and guidance for staff regarding how they should manage the behaviour of young people. All members of staff receive training in safe ways to restrain young people. Records show that there has only been one episode of physical intervention and two sanctions since the last inspection.

There are good systems in place to keep the young people and adults safe from the risk of fire and other potential hazards. Regular fire drills occur at the right times although there is no record of a night time drill taking place. Checks of the fire equipment and appropriate service contracts are in place for fire and electrical equipment and a range of recorded risk assessments covering general health and safety matters have been completed. This helps to reduce some of the potential risks to young people, staff and visitors.

Members of staff undergo a range of checks, including a Criminal Records Bureau disclosure check, to help make sure that they are suitable to work with young people. There are suitable arrangements for monitoring and managing visitors to the home to help ensure they do not have inappropriate access to young people.

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
1	include in the Statement of Purpose all matters listed in Schedule 1 (Regulation 4)	30/08/2010
2	ensure that the home's placement plan is consistent with any plan for the care of the child prepared by their placing authority (Regulation 12)	30/08/2010

Recommendations

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

- ensure that one night time fire drill is carried out in a 12 month period. (NMS 26)
- ensure that all childcare staff receive at least 6 paid days of training per year (NMS 31).