

Inspection report for Children's Home

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Inspector	Stella Henderson
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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 Crispins, 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 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 is part of the provision operated by the local authority. The home provides care for up to two young people aged between 12 and 17-years-old who have significant, social, emotional and behavioural difficulties. The home is a semi-detached property, which is indistinguishable from its neighbours. The young people are able to access local leisure activities in the immediate neighbourhood and staff provide transport to take the young people to those facilities that are at a distance. On the ground floor there is a kitchen/diner, toilet and lounge. On the first floor there are three bedrooms and a bathroom. Young people have their own separate bedrooms and the third bedroom is used as an office as well as a staff sleeping-in room. There is an enclosed garden at the rear for activities and to the front of the home is a parking area for the staff members and visitors.

Two young people were present at the time of this inspection.

Summary

The overall quality rating is good.

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

The purpose of this visit was to undertake an unannounced interim inspection focussing on the area of staying safe. Progress towards meeting an action and a recommendation made at the last inspection was also assessed.

The home continues to provide a good standard of care for young people and the overall judgement is unchanged. The safeguarding of young people remains a priority for the manager and staff, and effective practice ensures that young people are protected both within and outside of the home.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection an action was raised with regard to arrangements for the safe administration and recording of any medicines received in the home. A recommendation was also raised in order to improve practice where the recording of complaints is concerned. Evidence from this inspection demonstrates that these shortfalls have now been met.

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Young people are safeguarded with regard to the administration of medication. All medication is stored safely in a locked cabinet and any medication coming into the home and dispensed is fully recorded. Storage arrangements are suitable and there are effective procedures in place for the disposal of medicines.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Young people benefit from a service that has a clear focus on a range of safeguarding issues. Operational policies and procedures are implemented effectively to promote the safety and welfare of young people and staff have an excellent grasp of their responsibilities regarding this area of practice. The privacy and dignity of young people is protected by the home's policies and practice.

Staff use a range of timely interventions to shape and promote positive behaviours. Physical restraint is rarely used and individual behaviour management plans provide clear support to young people. Comprehensive risk assessments in relation to a range of known or likely behaviours and responses of young people are in place and regularly reviewed. There are effective arrangements in place to deal with any incidents of unauthorised absences, complaints or safeguarding concerns.

Young people are protected by a number of environmental safety checks that take place. Staff test the fire alarm system regularly and undertake fire evacuation drills. No new members of staff have been employed at the home since the last inspection, but previous inspection reports indicate that the home has sound recruitment and vetting procedures. This ensures that no one who is unsuitable to work with young people is employed at the home .

Young people are further protected by staff ensuring that the identity of visitors to the home, and the purpose of their visit, is checked and that confidential information about young people is stored appropriately and securely.

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.