

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	16 February 2010
Inspector	Carole Moore
Type of Inspection	Random

Date of last inspection	24 September 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 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. Young people have their own separate bedrooms and have an enclosed garden for activities. To the front of the home is a parking area for the staff members and visitors.

Summary

This was an unannounced interim inspection to assess the key national minimum standards relating to staying safe. Clear policies and procedures support staff in safe working practices. Young people are made aware of expected behaviour and the consequences if behaviour should be inappropriate. Matters of health and safety are routinely checked and documented. One young person was present during part of this inspection.

The last inspection found the service to be good in all areas of practice and this inspection makes no change to that judgement. Two recommendations have been made in relation to record keeping.

The overall quality rating is good.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

There were no actions or recommendations set at the last inspection.

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 home continues to provide an environment that is safe and secure and there are good arrangements for the protection and care of young people. Staff promote young people's privacy and welfare and ensure systems are in place to help protect young people from bullying and absconding behaviour. Young people know that bullying is not tolerated and staff will intervene to ensure they are protected from bullying by others, should the need arise. A senior member of staff has recently attended technical abuse training which includes cyber bullying.

Young people are further safeguarded as clear systems are in place to manage complaints. The complaints system is known and used by young people when required. Staff are proactive in advocating on behalf of young people within the home. The young people's guide does not have the telephone number for Ofsted listed.

Training in safeguarding is provided to staff which is regularly refreshed on-line. There are systems in place to respond to any young people that go absent without authority. Records show that key people are informed of any such absence at the time of reporting and upon their

safe return. The home liaises appropriately with the police and other agencies. Behaviour plans outline what is expected from young people personally and their involvement in the house rules. Rewards systems encourage positive behaviour and assist young people in reaching targets. When young people breach the house rules or behave inappropriately a suitable sanction is issued. Training occurs in managing actual potential aggression where every effort is made to avoid the use of physical intervention. Young people are encouraged to consider the impact of their behaviour on themselves and others. Suitable records are maintained but young people are not invited to contribute to these records formally.

The home protects young people by ensuring a range of environmental risk assessments have been undertaken and regularly reviewed. The risk assessments cover all aspects of safety of the premises and grounds including fire and young people's behaviour and activities. These assessments are taken into account in the daily activities in the home. A similar process is followed for activities outside the home, for example, on trips out. The fire log book shows that there are regular checks of the alarm systems and the home has completed the required number of fire drills or evacuations and there is always a fire drill when a young person moves into the placement.

Staff recruitment records were not inspected on this occasion.

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 Children's 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 the young person's guide contains information about how to make a complaint, including the telephone number of Ofsted (NMS1.3)

- ensure all children are given the opportunity to discuss incidents and express their views and to have their views recorded and sign their names against them if possible in the records by the home (NMS22.14).