

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC065189
Inspection date	29 June 2010
Inspector	Anthony Kyem
Type of Inspection	Random

Date of last inspection	9 March 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 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 home provides care, education and accommodation for up to two young people of either sex, aged 10 to 17 years. The home is run and managed by a private organisation that operates a number of other children's homes. The home is easily accessible by car or public transport and benefits from good access to local amenities. The home is situated within a residential area and is comprised of four single bedrooms, two of which provide young people with their own separate bedrooms. The other bedrooms are used by staff as sleeping quarters, and one bedroom is also used as an office. The home has an education room, games room, lounge, and dining area, kitchen, washing facilities, en-suite facilities and utility room.

Summary

This was an unannounced interim inspection, which was used to monitor compliance with the recommendation and action raised at the previous inspection. The outcome area for staying safe was also assessed, to see how well the home promotes young people's welfare.

The home is a good service which actively promotes young people's welfare and safety. There are clear procedures in place which are fully understood and used by staff, to protect young people from harm. There are good arrangements made to promote health and safety.

The overall quality rating is good.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

There was one action and a recommendation identified during the previous inspection. The action related to recruitment practices and the recommendation was made in relation to the routine monitoring of sanctions, to ensure compliance with the home's policies and procedures. Both matters have been addressed successfully.

The home now ensures that, where a person has previously worked with children, verification of the reason why their employment has ended is routinely obtained. Sanctions used by staff are now being monitored to ensure compliance with the home's policies and procedures.

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's privacy is promoted well. All are provided with their own separate bedrooms, which enables them to store and secure their personal possessions safely. Young people are provided with their own bedroom doors keys to enhance their independence. Staff deal with young people's information in a sensitive manner and they ensure that young people's records are treated and stored confidentially. The home's bathroom facilities provide good protection for young people to wash, with privacy and dignity.

The home's complaints policy is known to young people and this is summarised for them within the children's guide. Young people's complaints are treated seriously and where complaints

have been made, they have been appropriately investigated by the manager. There were several complaints recorded. All have been addressed promptly to resolve any issues.

There are clear arrangements made for the protection and promotion of young people's welfare. All staff are trained in safeguarding and they are clear about their roles and responsibilities to protect young people from harm. There are clear safeguarding procedures in place, to ensure that staff follow the correct procedures in the event of suspected abuse. There are effective reporting procedures to protect young people and promote their safe return if they are absent without authority. No unauthorised absences have occurred since the previous inspection.

There are good arrangements in place to protect young people from bullying. Young people and staff have each signed a written anti bullying agreement, so that relationships are respected and valued. There are no issues to do with bullying. Sanctions are used appropriately by staff, to discourage anti-social behaviour.

Young people's behaviours are managed safely. Their behaviours are carefully assessed and identified risks are recorded. Staff understand how to manage risks safely and respond to young people's behaviours in an organised, planned and consistent way. Staff receive appropriate training in care and control to help them keep young people safe in times of crisis. Restraints are very rarely used and the use of all forms of permissible measures of control are regularly monitored.

Health and safety is managed efficiently. Positive steps are taken to keep young people, visitors and staff safe from potential hazards. All gas, fire fighting equipment and household electrical appliances, are serviced for their safety. There are regular fire drills and testing of the home's fire detection systems.

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

There are no recommendations.