

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	14 January 2010
Inspector	Liz Driver
Type of Inspection	Random

Date of last inspection	12 August 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

A private company owns and operates this setting. The home accommodates one young person at a time who has emotional and behavioural difficulties aged between 11 and 18 years of age.

The premises are an end of terrace house situated close to the town centre. The ground floor comprises a lounge, a dining room and a kitchen. There is a small yard to the rear. The first floor comprises three bedrooms, one for the use of the young person and two for staff who perform 'sleeping-in' duties. One of the bedrooms doubles as an office.

Summary

This unannounced interim inspection looked at the progress the setting has made with the requirements made at the last inspection. These related to regulation 33 visit reports and monitoring by the manager in relation to schedule 6. The provision has taken appropriate action to resolve previous requirements.

This inspection also looked at staying safe and areas of enjoying and achieving, economic wellbeing, and organisation.

Overall the setting provides a good standard of care with some outstanding areas. Staff are fully committed to ensuring the best outcomes for young people and work very hard to engage them, especially in education. There has been a change in management of the home since the last inspection.

The overall quality rating is good.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the setting was asked to ensure all regulation 33 visit reports were made available for inspection. This has been addressed and they are also now submitted to Ofsted on a monthly basis in line with new Ofsted guidance for all children's homes. The manager was also asked to ensure that all matters laid out in schedule 6 are monitored at appropriate intervals. This too has been addressed to a good standard.

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 continues to be respected with confidential information stored securely and handled sensitively. There is a policy in place with regards to searching a young person's room and a record is kept if this occurs. There is a comprehensive policy regarding client access to records.

The right of a young person to complain about their care in the home is made clear to them on their admission to the home. The young person's handbook gives clear guidance to the young people about who they can complain to and their contact details. Staff receive training

in complaints and whistle blowing as part of their induction process. Recording systems for complaints are in place although no entries have been made since the last inspection.

Young people are cared for by staff who receive appropriate training in safeguarding, including the home's and local authority's protocols in identifying and responding to child protection concerns or incidents. There is a child protection policy in place for the staff to follow and they have a copy of the local safeguarding procedures in the office to which they can refer. No referrals have been made since the last inspection.

The home has a very clear policy in place with regards to managing bullying. Behavioural expectations are made clear to the young people when they are admitted to the home and the policy emphasises that there is no tolerance of bullying behaviour.

The home has a clear policy in place for the staff to follow in the event that a young person goes missing. Young people's care plans clearly state what course of action will be pursued should the young person leave the home without permission or not return to the home at the agreed time. This strategy is also explained to the young people so that they are clear as to what the consequences are if they are missing. The setting works hard with other agencies to lessen the risk for young people if they go missing and to ensure consistent strategies are in place for all agencies involved.

Young people have a behaviour management plan in place which outlines what support they need to achieve positive behaviour. Triggers for distressed or challenging behaviour are recorded in young people's behaviour management plan. Sanctions are clearly stated in the company's policy with permissible and non permissible sanctions identified.

All members of staff receive training in the method of restraint chosen by the organisation which owns the home. There have been no recorded incidents of restraint in the home since 2006. Behaviour in the home is of a good standard. The staff are aware of the fact that good relationships with young people underpin good order in the home rather than relying on imposed control via disciplinary measures.

The manager ensures that any risk assessments related to the premises, activities or young people are updated and reviewed regularly. The home has up to date checks carried out on electric, gas and fire safety systems. Additionally, there are regular fire drills. Internal checks are also carried out on a weekly basis by members of staff to check the fire alarms, smoke detectors, emergency lighting and fire extinguishers.

The organisation operates a robust recruitment process which ensures that all members of staff have the correct checks made on them before commencing work. All visitors are vetted, supervised if appropriate and asked to sign the visitor's book.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

The staff work very hard to ensure young people have the opportunity to attend an educational placement. Staff liaise with education placements and arrange meetings to prepare individual education plans and personal education plans. The home has an ethos where education is highly valued and young people are encouraged to take advantage of the support and opportunities

given to them. Links with local work experience and employment companies adds to the education provision and transitional support into adult life.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is not judged.

Achieving economic wellbeing

The provision is good.

The home provides a good standard of accommodation throughout. Suitable toilet and bathing facilities are provided. Young people choose the décor in their rooms and are able to personalise them with posters and pictures. Young people have their own key for their room if they wish and there is separate sleeping-in accommodation for the staff. The home has enough space for the young people to meet visitors in private. Recent identification of some external wall problems is currently being addressed by the manager.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

There has been a change in management since the last inspection. The current manager is also the responsible individual for the organisation. The manager works part time hours and provides suitable managerial support to senior staff, and is currently in the process of submitting an application to be registered with Ofsted. Current management is sound with good support from staff.

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 Childrens 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.