

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC066048
Inspection date	30/11/2011
Inspector	Gaynor Moorey
Type of inspection	Full
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	06/01/2011
--------------------------------	------------

© Crown copyright 2011

Website: www.ofsted.gov.uk

This document may be reproduced in whole or in part for non-commercial educational purposes, provided that the information quoted is reproduced without adaptation and the source and date of publication are stated.

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 to assess the effectiveness of the service and to consider how well it complies with the relevant regulations and meets the national minimum standards.

The report details the main strengths, any areas for improvement, including any breaches of regulation, and any failure to meet national minimum standards. The judgements included in the report are made against the *Inspections of children's homes – framework for inspection* (March 2011) and the evaluation schedule for children's homes.

The inspection judgements and what they mean

Outstanding: a service that significantly exceeds minimum requirements

Good: a service that exceeds minimum requirements

Satisfactory: a service that only meets minimum requirements

Inadequate: a service that does not meet minimum requirements

Service information

Brief description of the service

This privately owned children's home is registered to provide care and accommodation for one young person who has emotional and /or behavioural difficulties.

Overall effectiveness

The overall effectiveness is judged to be **satisfactory**.

The home provides a consistent standard of care to young people. Relationships between staff and young people are positive. Robust and detailed systems are in place to assess, monitor and review care needs ensuring that the care delivered is of a reasonable standard. Young people say they feel safe within the home and that they feel their opinions and feelings are respected and valued. Education and enriching activities are promoted to a good standard.

Quality of care in the home is subject to thorough and robust monitoring. Before the placement of the recent young person, the home has had no children on register for over twelve months. The new placement of a young person has shown how quickly the organisation is able to offer a consistent level of care in line with the organisations' other homes.

No recommendation or requirements were made at this inspection.

Outcomes for children and young people

Outcomes for children and young people are **satisfactory**.

Young people benefit from individualised support which helps them to feel supported in a new environment. Staff are aware of young people's strengths and vulnerabilities and help to nurture their talents and interests. This approach ensures that each young person feels valued and cared for.

Young people are given the opportunity to engage in new activities and education that could be useful and consistent within their lives.

Young people prosper from having their general health needs and emotional health promoted to a good standard through appointments with health professionals such as opticians and dentists. Young people are given and receive comprehensive advice and guidance on issues such as sexual health, self harming and drug awareness. This ensures, as they become more independent they will have the information to help keep them safe.

Young people benefit from the positive promotion of education and the chance to engage at college. They receive good levels of support and benefit from members of staff being willing to advocate on their behalf. Young people have been supported and encouraged to attend a college placement within their first week of being placed at the home.

Young people benefit from staff supporting them to build upon previous experiences of independent living and help them to carry on gaining new experiences. One young person had been at their first day of college and made some minestrone soup and said, 'they felt proud of themselves for learning new things.'

Quality of care

The quality of the care is **satisfactory**.

Young people are able to benefit because the staff team offers personalised support to the young people. As a result of their approach the young people are able to benefit from positive early relationships with clear boundaries and a committed staff team.

The young people's views are promoted and valued to a reasonable standard. There is a culture of promoting young people's rights and encouraging them to voice their feelings and opinions appropriately. Young people are able to influence decisions relating to their daily lives, such as independent living.

Young people's comprehensive care plans clearly identify their individual needs. Young people are able to have an opinion about their future and what is currently happening to them.

Young people are enabled to follow their individual needs including cultural and spiritual. Young people are supported in this through staff experience and guidance throughout the organisation.

Members of staff enable the young people to take part in positive and enriching experiences whilst settling into a new environment, such as beginning college and visiting family and friends in the local community.

Young people benefit from living in a home which is well maintained and comfortable. They are encouraged to personalise their rooms. The home has a small garden.

Safeguarding children and young people

The service is **satisfactory** at keeping children and young people safe and feeling safe.

Young people report that they feel supported and protected in the home. They feel that they can share any fears or anxieties with the staff and that these will be

treated seriously and acted upon. Members of staff are aware of what to do in the event that they have concerns about a young person's well-being.

Each young person has an individual protocol in place as to what course of action needs to be followed in the event that they are missing without permission.

The effective management of the young people's behaviour is a strong aspect of the home and situations are dealt with through discussion and communication. The young people felt that due to the way the staff were treating them, they felt more confident within themselves. Young people felt able to discuss their current situation with the staff team.

Young people benefit from a stable staff team. The home has a robust recruitment policy which ensures that only adults who have been assessed as suitable to work with young people are employed.

Numerous risk assessments and safety checks of the premises and fire equipment ensures that the young people live in a safe home. Fire drills have been undertaken since the young person has arrived at the home to ensure overall safety. The systems operated in the home and attention to detail to each young person's needs and vulnerabilities has ensured that their safety is promoted to an satisfactory standard.

Leadership and management

The leadership and management of the children's home are **satisfactory**.

Since the home has had a young person accommodated, an acting manager has been put into place. The management of the home looks to be consistent with the other organisations homes. The acting manager and staff team have made a positive start in providing the young person with a new stable placement. Staff receive regular training and supervision from the organisation, practice is of a good standard and young people benefit from a consistent, supported life style at the home.

During the period the home did not accommodate young people, it continued to be externally monitored so it would be fit for purpose when a young person was referred.

There have been no recommendation or requirements made for the home over the last two inspections. The home has not accommodated any children for twelve months.

The staffing complement ensures that there are always sufficient staff on shift to be able to respond to young people's needs.

Equality and diversity practice is **satisfactory**.

