

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC066242
Inspection date	10 November 2009
Inspector	Sonya Robinson
Type of Inspection	Random

Date of last inspection	27 April 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 provides care and accommodation for two young people between the ages of 12 to 16 years.

Accommodation is provided over two floors, the ground floor includes a kitchen, lounge, dining room and conservatory. Young people have their own rooms which are located on the upper floor. The house is set in a semi rural location but is close to local shops, there are transport links to and from a city centre and a nearby town. The service also has access to local community resources.

On the day of inspection no young people were present.

Summary

This visit was an interim inspection and was unannounced. One outcome area for young people was looked at during this inspection, which was staying safe. The inspection looked at the progress that the home has made with the actions and recommendations made at the last inspection. These related to documentation for young people and how the service plans to develop.

The home continues to be a good service that meets the national minimum standards. Young people enjoy living there and feel cared for. Young people are looked after by a group of competent and skilled people. The staff place a great emphasis on young people's needs and supporting young people with their daily lives.

The overall quality rating is good.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

No actions were made at the previous inspection. The home was asked to consider two points as a matter of good practice. Firstly, to ensure that there is an up to date placement plan for each young person accommodated at the home, that details sufficiently assessed their needs and describes how the home aims to meet them. This relates to a very recent admission at the time of the previous inspection. This has been actioned and up to date placement plans are in place for all young people placed within this service.

Secondly, the service was asked to ensure that there is a development plan which is reviewed annually, for the future of the home, either identifying any planned changes in the operation or resources of the home, or confirming the continuation of the home's current operation and resourcing. The owner of the home has undertaken this and a development plan has been introduced. This is also reviewed monthly, to assess how the home is achieving the targets that they have set out to achieve, in the forthcoming year.

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. They have single bedrooms with their own keys. The accommodation provides space where young people can relax easily and spend time alone when they wish. Young people are able to make and receive telephone calls in private in line with any restrictions agreed with the placing authority. Staff respect young people's privacy, consistent with good parenting, and the need to protect young people. Confidential information is held securely in the office.

Information about young people's rights and how to complain is contained in the home's young people's guide. Young people know how to raise issues if they are unhappy and their concerns are taken seriously.

Young people's welfare is promoted and safeguarded. Bullying is not an issue at present and there are procedures in place should this change. The home has taken appropriate and decisive action to safeguard young people and work effectively with the relevant external agencies.

Staff fully understand their roles and responsibilities to promote and safeguard young people's welfare. They are familiar with the home's safeguarding policies. They provide a good level of supervision for young people based on their age to make sure they are safe in the home and in the community. Also, staff give young people good advice about personal safety. They have worked effectively with young people to ensure that they come in on time.

Young people have clear and consistent boundaries and know what is expected of them and what is unacceptable. Staff use effective communication skills to encourage young people to develop socially acceptable behaviour. They place a great emphasis on praising young people when they do well and reward them. Formal sanctions are used sparingly.

Staff do help young people deal with their anxieties and frustrations in a positive way by encouraging young people to talk about how they are feeling and work out how to solve problems.

The home address health and safety issues with a range of risk assessments. They identify hazards in and around the home as well as risks faced by individual young people including activities and behaviour. Staff also carry out regular health and safety checks, including fire safety systems to make sure that the home is a safe place to live.

The vetting of visitors and people wishing to work at the home is thorough to make sure young people are protected.

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 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.