

Inspection report for Children's Home

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Inspector	Sonya Robinson
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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 outcomes for children set out in the Children Act 2004 and the relevant National Minimum Standards for the service.

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 registered to provide care and accommodation for two young people between the ages of 11 to 17 years. They can also provide transitional care for young people entering into adulthood for a specified period of time.

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, and there are transport links to and from a city centre and a nearby town. The service also has access to local community resources.

At the time of this inspection there were no young people present within the home, as they were attending their educational placement.

Summary

The overall quality rating is good.

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

During this interim unannounced inspection the home's response to the recommendations made at the inspection in June 2010 were discussed. In addition, staying safe was also examined and continues to be judged as good.

The young people who live at this home achieve good outcomes from their placement. Staff provide a safe and nurturing environment, and young people are given a range of opportunities to develop independence.

The home has made good progress since the last inspection and as result of this inspection, one good practice recommendation in relation to staff training is raised.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection no actions were made. Three good practice recommendations were made for the home to consider in order to improve their practice.

Recommendations made were in relation to risk assessments being appropriately detailed and introduced where additional potential risks have been identified and that professional staff supervision is maintained in accordance with the timescales laid down in the standards. These have been implemented and maintained.

The third recommendation was to ensure that a minimum of 80% of all care staff have completed National Vocational Qualification at level 3 in the Caring for Children

and Young People or an equivalent qualification. The home is making good progress in this area. However, this recommendation is repeated within this 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.

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. 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.

The home makes sure that young people have access to information about their rights and how to deal with their concerns through the complaints procedure. Staff encourage young people to talk to them if they are unhappy or worried about anything. Staff are aware of the potential for bullying. They provide young people with a good level of supervision and are vigilant in identifying any problems. This ensures that young people are clear that bullying is not acceptable and that staff act to address any problems, such as liaising with educational placements when necessary.

Young people's welfare is actively promoted and safeguarded. There are no on going safeguarding issues. There are systems in place to safeguard young people, and staff work effectively with relevant external agencies. Staff fully understand about their roles and responsibilities to promote and safeguard young people's welfare. They are familiar with the home's safeguarding policies and are suitably trained in child protection. Staff and young people also have access to an independent visitor to the home, in order that safeguarding can be robust.

Staff provide young people with good advice about personal safety and work effectively with young people. There are no instances noted of young people going missing from care. The home keeps accurate written records of all serious events and the action taken by staff to protect young people.

The staff at the home encourage young people to develop socially acceptable behaviour. Young people know what standards of behaviour are expected and this has resulted in young people demonstrating an increasingly mature and responsible approach to how they conduct themselves. The home focuses on encouraging positive behaviour through rewards and incentives. This is effective, as there are no sanctions recorded since the last inspection or instances of physical intervention.

Staff view young people in a positive light and show a good understanding of the issues that may influence young people's behaviour, such as their past experiences and adapting to new environments. Staff are good at helping young people feel positive about themselves which helps build self-esteem.

Young people live in a safe environment. The home addresses 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 undertaking activities. Staff carry out regular health and safety checks including fire safety systems, to make sure that the home is a safe place to live. Appropriate safety certificates are also in place for the relevant utilities.

Young people are well protected by thorough staff recruitment practices that are designed to ensure all staff recruited to work with young people are suitable to do so. Additionally, there is a robust approach to the vetting and supervising of visitors which also helps ensure young people are kept safe.

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?

Recommendations

To improve the quality and standards of care further the registered person should take account of the following recommendation(s):

- ensure that a minimum of 80% of all care staff have completed National Vocational Qualification at level 3 in the Caring for Children and Young People or an equivalent qualification. (NMS 29.5)