

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	11 March 2010
Inspector	Anthony Kyem
Type of Inspection	Random

Date of last inspection	17 September 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 is one of a number of single occupancy children's homes, which are run and managed by the same private company. The home provides education, care and accommodation for children and young people of either sex, aged 10 to 17 years.

Summary

Currently, the home is not providing care or accommodation to young people. Ofsted's inspection methodology relies on evidence found at the time of inspection and this essentially includes young people's views about the service. As the home is temporarily inoperable, a proportionate inspection was undertaken.

The purpose of this visit was to decide that should a young person become accommodated, then the home would be able to work to a satisfactory standard. The outcome areas for staying safe and organisation were both assessed.

The highest judgement rating an inoperable service can be judged is satisfactory. Previous inspections of the service have been judged good overall.

The overall quality rating is satisfactory.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

There were no actions made as a result of the previous inspection. Two recommendations were made and have been addressed. Staff are suitably trained in the use of restraint, so that they know how to manage the behaviours of young people safely. Risks assessments are in place in relation to the property and these are regularly reviewed by staff.

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is not judged.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Young people's privacy is respected and their private information is securely stored for confidentiality purposes. Young people are provided with their own bedrooms and washing facilities to promote their rights to privacy. There is evidence available to show that the home is able to promote and safeguard young people's welfare.

Sufficient staff are employed to supervise and respond to the needs of the young people. Bullying is not an issue for young people to be concerned with, as the home only provides care for one young person at one time. Complaints records show that young people's complaints are taken seriously and where these have occurred, they have been investigated appropriately.

There are no current issues with young people placing themselves at risk of significant harm. Previous inspections have found that safeguarding issues and concerns have been handled professionally, with the home reporting all significant occurrences. The home follows

safeguarding procedures and written protocols and ensures its staff are suitably trained to recognise, respond and protect young people from abuse.

Where young people absent themselves without authority, staff implement the home's missing persons procedures to promote their safe return. Young people's behaviours are assessed on admission and any associated risks are thoroughly recorded to allow staff, to work with young people safely.

Staff are trained in the use of restraint and records held in respect of such matters were found to be in order. Socially acceptable behaviour is encouraged and sanctions are used by staff are fair. There are good systems in place to promote environmental safety. There is routine testing of the home's fire fighting equipment and annual safety tests are undertaken to the home's fire and portable electrical appliances.

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 satisfactory.

The Statement of Purpose includes good information about the home's primary objectives. It is accessible to young people, their families and placing authorities. The document includes information about the home's key policies and procedures and includes details about staff's relevant qualifications and experience.

Staff receive suitable training which enables them to work with young people and meet their diverse range of needs. The achievement rate of staff, currently qualified to National Vocational Qualification standards is below the minimum requirement. However, those not qualified are currently receiving training to obtain the qualification.

A new staff team has been established in accordance with the identified needs of a planned admission. The numbers of staff employed will enable the home to provide continuity of care, and provide young people with consistency and support to develop trusting relationships, with the same staff.

The performance of the home is regularly reviewed in accordance with the standards and regulations. The manager of the home routinely examines internal practices, by checking the home's administrative systems at suitable intervals. Such checks enable the manager to identify and rectify shortfalls with practice. Independent monitoring also occurs and this provides additional quality assurance in relation to the home's performance.

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.