

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC066560
Inspection date	24 June 2010
Inspector	Anthony Kyem
Type of Inspection	Random

Date of last inspection	11 March 2010
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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

This was a short unannounced interim inspection. The purpose of the visit was to monitor compliance with the recommendations and actions raised at the last inspection, where applicable. The outcome area for staying safe was also inspected.

There are good arrangements made to promote health and safety within the home. There is a safe and consistent approach towards behaviour management. There are clear procedures in place for staff to follow to keep young people safe from harm. There are no safeguarding issues or concerns to do with bullying.

Appropriate action is taken to report young people missing where they absent themselves without authority. Young people know how to complain, and when complaints have occurred they have been treated seriously and appropriately investigated.

The overall quality rating is good.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

There are no actions or recommendations resulting from the previous 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.

The home promotes the rights of young people by ensuring their privacy is respected. Staff store young people's records in a secure way and they make sure that young people's private information is handled in a confidential manner. Young people are provided with their own bedrooms, and locks fitted to washing facilities allow young people to use these facilities in private.

The home's complaints procedure is made known to young people on their admission. The policy is also clearly summarised for young people within the children's guide to the home. Staff support young people to raise their concerns openly and they ensure that young people's complaints are treated seriously. Where complaints have occurred they have been investigated appropriately with a written outcome recorded.

The home provides young people with a safe environment in which to live, where their welfare and safety is prioritised and promoted. Staff have a good awareness of young people's needs and they are trained to keep them safe from harm. All staff are trained in safeguarding, so they know how to respond to suspected abuse. Appropriate policies are in place to assist staff in

the event of any allegation being made to them. There are no current issues in relation to the protection of children.

Young people are protected from bullying. There are effective systems in place for reporting young people missing should they absent themselves without authority. Where young people have gone missing, staff know what to do to promote their safe return. There has been a strong decline in the number of recent unauthorised absences, with strategies used, to prevent young people from going missing.

Staff assist young people to develop socially acceptable behaviour through the positive use of praise, encouragement and reward. Unacceptable behaviour is sanctioned fairly, and sanctions are only used by staff to address anti-social behaviour. Physical intervention is used where needed and necessary, to deal with confrontational behaviours in a safe, calm and sensitive way. This keeps young people safe in times of crisis. All staff are trained in the same methods of care and control and de-escalation strategies.

Health and safety systems are managed well. The home's building risk assessments have recently been updated and reviewed. Risks associated with the premises are carefully assessed, and risk assessments are used to alert staff towards potential hazards. This enables action to be taken, to eliminate and reduce any risks associated with the safety of the home. However, the home's fire risk assessment requires updating to show that all identified actions have been completed.

A visual inspection of the home was undertaken, no environmental hazards or issues with the premises were identified. Staff hold regular fire drills to make sure that young people know how to evacuate the premises safely in the event of fire.

Previous inspections of the service have identified that robust recruitment and vetting procedures are followed, which offers young people good protection from those judged unsuitable to work with children.

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

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

- ensure the home's fire risk assessment is reviewed annually and that any actions identified are met and recorded. (NMS 26.2)