

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	24 February 2010
Inspector	Julia Toller
Type of Inspection	Random

Date of last inspection	20 July 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 for up to four young people aged 10 to 17 years, who may experience emotional and behavioural difficulties.

This is a large terraced house over three floors, situated in a residential area. The communal areas consist of a lounge, activity room and kitchen with a dining area. A utility room is situated off the kitchen. The bedrooms, all of which are single, are situated on the first and second floor; a bathroom fitted with a bath and shower is available on the first floor of the home. There is also an office, staff sleep-in facilities and a garden to the rear of the home.

There is a good public transport system with buses and a local railway station nearby. Shops, schools, cinemas and other leisure facilities are within easy reach of the home.

Summary

At this unannounced interim inspection, all key standards were not inspected, the inspection focussed on how the service has addressed the actions and recommendations made at the last key inspection and the outcome area of staying safe was assessed. This is a good service overall.

Young people benefit from positive relationships with staff. They are afforded a range of facilities and opportunities to encourage and support a healthy lifestyle, to develop their life skills and to reach good outcomes from education.

Staff benefit from a good level of training and support, they work well with other professionals to meet the complex and holistic needs of young people in areas such as emotional and physical well-being.

The overall quality rating is good.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

Two actions were raised at the last inspection regarding the individual needs of young people and the monthly monitoring of the home. Three recommendations were also raised regarding an electrical safety certificate, complaints records and levels of cleanliness at the home.

Direct work sessions are carried out with young people with records of these sessions in place, these show that the individual care needs of young people are addressed and monitored.

The home is now being monitored by a representative of the organisation. The reports of these visits show that the views of young people and staff are sought in an effort to improve services at the home.

Complaints are recorded alongside action that has been taken to resolve the issue, this shows that the views of young people and others, such as neighbours, are listened to and acted upon.

The home is adequately maintained at present, providing clean, homely accommodation for young people. The electrical safety certificate has not yet been updated but remains valid. The

manager is in the process of updating the certificate and this will therefore be monitored further at the next 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.

There is a child protection policy and also an anti-bullying procedure. These help staff to keep young people safe and promote a consistent approach from staff in line with safeguarding procedures.

Bullying is not an issue at the home at present. Staff work with young people to discuss and explain the effects of bullying and offer young people ways to keep themselves safe.

Staff are aware of their roles and responsibilities in safeguarding procedures. Risk assessments are in place in line with placement plans, these address the specific high risk behaviours of young people to ensure their safety and well-being.

Sanctions made given to young people are reasonable and appropriate to their age and understanding. A consistent approach from staff in offering rewards for positive behaviours results in a minimal amount of sanctions being made. Ofsted have not, however, been notified of all incidents where police have been called to the home.

Procedures are in place for when young people are absent from care. Staff work with young people to explain the dangers of being absent from care and work with young people and relevant professionals to minimise these absences. This helps to promote the safety of young people and helps to keep them safe.

The safety of staff and young people is promoted through the testing of fire safety equipment at required intervals; although fire drills have not been carried out at the required intervals. This does not help to make sure that the home is a safe place for young people to live.

Appropriate action is taken in response to complaints and acceptable outcomes reached. This shows that the home takes complaints seriously and listens to the opinions of others to improve the service they offer.

Recruitment procedures are sufficiently robust to assist in safeguarding young people and staff files hold information in line with Schedule 2 of the Children's Homes Regulations 2001.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Staff demonstrate an awareness of the needs of young people, they work with young people to ensure that their care needs are met. Young people have their care needs reviewed at the required intervals and it is evident that the home has appropriately contributed to the review process. This ensures that the care needs of young people are monitored and young people are provided with an opportunity to have a say about their care and future.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is not judged.

Achieving economic wellbeing

The provision is good.

Staff prepare young people for adult life, they are encouraged to take more responsibility for themselves suitable to their age and understanding. They routinely learn skills through taking part in the running of the home, such as shopping, planning meals, cooking, using money and doing household tasks. They are also encouraged to develop their personal care, organisational and social skills.

The premises provide homely comfortable accommodation for young people to live in. The home has been reorganised since the last inspection to provide a games room for young people, this is well equipped and provides young people with a variety of leisure pursuits within the home.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

There is an independent representative of the organisation who visits to monitor standards at the home. The reports of these visits show that the views of young people and staff are sought in an effort to improve standards at the home.

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 Children's Homes Regulations 2001 and the National Minimum Standards. The Registered Provider must comply with the given timescales.

Standard	Action	Due date
20	ensure that Ofsted are notified of all incidents in line with Schedule 5 of the Children's Homes Regulations 2001 (Regulation 30)	10 March 2010
26	ensure that fire drills are completed as required by the fire officer. (Regulation 32)	10 March 2010

Recommendations

There are no recommendations.