

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC066917
Inspection date	8 March 2010
Inspector	Monica Hargreaves
Type of Inspection	Random

Date of last inspection	20 August 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

This service is a children's home that offers a long term therapeutic placement for up to two young people aged between 10 years and 17 years on admission, who have emotional and behavioural difficulties. The premises are located on the outskirts of a large town and consist of a detached farm house, domestic in appearance and within walking distance of some local amenities. The home has two vehicles for transporting the young people to other areas, so that they can access a range of recreation and leisure facilities and other amenities. Staffing levels can be adjusted to match the individual needs of the young people. Night time supervision is determined by levels of need and risk.

This service has its own school, which the young people can access as part of their educational programme. Older students are provided with individual programmes that may include part education and part work experience. The young people are able to engage in therapy that is provided by the responsible individual who has postgraduate qualifications in cognitive behaviour therapy.

There were two young people living at the home at the time of this visit.

Summary

This was an unannounced interim inspection. It was undertaken to assess how the home is working to meet young people's needs under the outcome area of staying safe. All key standards in that outcome area were considered.

There are good arrangements in the home to ensure that young people are cared for safely. Safeguarding has a high priority and procedures are robust which ensures that young people are protected from abuse. Young people are also protected from bullying and the risk of going missing from the home. The privacy of young people is respected and their complaints are responded to promptly. Staff promote and encourage positive behaviours in the home and manage challenging behaviour constructively and with the lowest level of intervention necessary to protect young people.

No actions or recommendations have been made as a result of this inspection.

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 or recommendations were made at the last 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 are good care practices and sound policies to ensure that the young people's right to privacy and confidentiality is promoted. Staff always knock on young people's doors before

entering and they make sure that information is kept confidential and securely stored. If there is a need to search a young person's room, staff follow the home's procedure, so that young people are made fully aware of the reason for a search and the outcome.

The home has a clear complaints process and young people are given good information about how to make a complaint. They have access to an independent person, so that they can make a complaint to someone outside the home, if they wish. There is evidence that young people are confident about using the procedure and that their complaints are responded to promptly. This reassures young people that their concerns and issues are taken seriously.

Safeguarding procedures are sound. Training is given to all staff during their induction to the home and is refreshed regularly, so that their knowledge and skills are kept up to date. The manager has developed good links with the Local Safeguarding Children Board to promote good communication and a prompt response to any concerns raised. The safeguarding procedure is clear and staff know how to respond to child protection concerns to keep young people safe.

Young people are clearly informed that bullying behaviours are not tolerated in the home. Staff recognise that there is always a possibility that bullying can occur and they put in place appropriate strategies to minimise the risk. For example, they have regular discussions with young people to help them to understand the impact of bullying on others and they supervise and support young people appropriately. Bullying is not an issue in the home.

Staffing levels in the home are good, which allows staff to supervise young people appropriately. Good supervision, clear risk assessments and support strategies, lessen the likelihood of young people going missing from the home. There is a sound procedure to manage unauthorised absences which the staff know and follow to ensure the safe return of the young person. Records show that there has been only one incident of a young person being absent from the home in more than two years, which indicates that the home's systems are effective in protecting young people.

Staff encourage young people to behave in socially acceptable ways and respond constructively to challenging behaviour. The organisation has a clear policy on physical intervention that fully meets the regulations and standards. Staff are trained in the management of behaviour that is challenging, including in the use of physical restraint, and physical intervention is only ever used as a last resort and at the lowest level needed to protect young people. This promotes the well-being of all young people in the home.

Young people benefit from living in a home that is kept safe. Staff keep risk assessments and risk management strategies up to date, so that the information is accurate and relevant. They make sure that fire equipment and electrical and gas installations are regularly checked and serviced. Young people take part in evacuation drills, so that they know what to do in the event of a fire or other emergency.

Staff recruitment procedures are robust and ensure that all staff are vetted and assessed as suitable to work with young people. Visitors to the home are checked and the house itself is kept appropriately secure to prevent unauthorised individuals gaining access to the home. These systems protect young people in the home from individuals who might pose a risk to them.

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.