

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC355755
Inspection date	3 December 2009
Inspector	Debbie Foster
Type of Inspection	Random

Date of last inspection	8 May 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

Care and accommodation provided at the home is for one young person aged between 8 to 17 years.

The home is a detached house with an enclosed rear garden. The ground floor has a lounge, kitchen/dining room, conservatory and family sized bathroom. On the first floor there are three bedrooms. Two bedrooms are used as a staff sleep in room/office and the other larger bedroom is used by the young person living in the home.

The home is situated in a residential area and is near to local shops. Local bus routes are accessible which provide easy access to the town centre with its larger shops and leisure facilities.

Summary

This was an unannounced interim inspection focusing upon national minimum standards relating to keeping children and young people safe. The one action and four recommendations made on the last inspection in May 2009 were checked to see that they have been implemented.

Good safeguarding measures are in place to support young people and ensure they are kept safe. This has been achieved through the staff being well-trained in safety areas. Building strong and positive relationships with young people in addition to providing consistent care and boundaries. The home has good links with other professionals to support young people. This is a real strength.

The overall quality rating is good.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

The setting has taken steps to address the majority areas identified at the last inspection.

Care plan detail specifically how and when the identified areas of care and support are to be achieved with the young people. Health risk assessments have been reviewed to improve the support to young people living a healthier life style. The risk assessments have been regularly reviewed and updated. This is to identify the current risks for individual young people and ensure the appropriate safety measures are in place to keep young people safe.

Personal education plans contain set targets for young people and where appropriate these are incorporated into their individual care plan.

The following recommendation is still to be implemented. The minimum ratio of 80% of all care staff have yet to achieve National Vocational Qualification at Level 3 in the Caring for Children and Young People.

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.

Staff promote young people's privacy by respecting their private space when using their bedrooms or requesting time alone. Records are securely stored and staff are clear on how to keep information confidential. Therefore, the young peoples' privacy is respected and information confidentially handled.

There is a clear complaints policy and procedure. The children's guide gives information on who young people can make a complaint too. Staff said all young people are made aware of the procedure for how to complain on admission and are supported to make complaints when required. There have been three complaints made since the last inspection. The records show that prompt action is taken to investigate these and the outcome is recorded, which indicates complainant concerns are taken seriously.

Young people's safety at the home is a high priority. A number of measures are in place to keep young people safe and the outcomes for individual young people in this area have continued to improve. The safeguarding procedures are available for staff to refer to and use. Prompt action has been taken to instigate the procedures to safeguard young people. Safeguarding training including refresher training has been provided to staff and they are aware of the procedures to follow.

Young people are protected from bullying, through the home's policies, procedures and by the practice of the staff. Bullying is not tolerated. Young people are monitored closely and given support when required. Appropriate action has been taken to deal with bullying occurring in the past. Staff said young people are not currently experiencing any bullying.

Staff respond immediately when young people go missing without authority, notifying all the appropriate persons including the police in line with policies and procedures. They have worked endlessly to locate the young person when they have been reported missing following the plan of care. In addition, other professionals have been contacted to assist in locating the young person and give support on their return to the home. Staff explain the dangers to the young people through the focused work they undertake. There have only been two incidents of young people going missing since the last inspection.

Good behaviour is a priority within the home. There are clear boundaries in place and these are discussed and agreed with the young people individually. Rewards and incentives are in place to encourage positive and acceptable behaviour. Young people have been part of the decision making for the rewards in place and this has empowered them. Staff work well as a team to provide consistent care to young people. This is a strength.

Minimum sanctions have been made since the last inspection and no physical intervention has taken place. Those made have been reasonable for the behaviour presented. These records are centrally held and contain the required information.

Young people's safety is promoted through the practices and support from staff. There are risk assessments in place, which cover the relevant areas, and these are in good detail supporting safety measures for staff to follow to reduce risks identified for individual young people to keep them safe. These risk assessments have been reviewed since the last inspection.

Fire records indicate that regular checks on the system and appropriate fire instruction, frequent drills and training have taken place. Health and safety areas are monitored by the manager to support keeping young people safe.

Thorough vetting and recruitment procedures for staff ensure young people are prevented from being cared for by unsuitable persons. The organisation undertakes the required and relevant checks on the staff recruited. This includes the criminal record bureau (CRB) check, references from the previous employer and having a full employment history of the worker.

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.