

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC356963
Inspection date	20 October 2009
Inspector	Michael McCleave
Type of Inspection	Random

Date of last inspection	30 June 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 is a local authority run children's home. It is a detached single storey building situated in a residential area. Staff provide care for young people who are vulnerable and for different reasons unable to live with their families. The home can accommodate up to eight young people aged from 10 to 17 years old.

Young people have individual bedrooms with en-suite shower rooms. The home has a lounge, kitchen with dining area, quiet or computer room, bathroom and a laundry. There is also a self-contained annex to the home with two bedrooms and a kitchen. The garden is enclosed and has a lawn and patio area. The home is situated within easy access to the local community, public transport and leisure facilities.

Summary

This was an unannounced interim inspection. Key standards in staying safe were inspected. Being healthy, enjoying and achieving, positive contribution, economic well being and organisation were not inspected.

The home provides the young people with a safe caring environment to live. There is a positive relationship between the young people and the staff. This gives the young people the confidence to be involved in the restorative approach to deal with any issues or problems. Behaviour management is not currently an issue and the home operates a non restraint policy. Young people feel safe living at this home.

The overall quality rating is good.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

The manager was asked to improve the children's guide, ensure that education records are received from schools and for young people to have a plan when not attending full time education. The manager has taken appropriate steps to comply with the recommendations. These actions will assist staff to ensure good outcomes for the 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 ensure that the young people are able to have private time alone if they wish. They can go to their own bedrooms, make use of the quiet room, or lounge if available. All records are located in the office where good security ensures that confidentiality is maintained. This promotes the safety of the young people.

Young people are aware of how to make a complaint. The home operates a restorative justice approach to resolving issues or concerns. This involves young people and staff discussing the issue and coming to a compromise solution. The system works well and the majority of situations are dealt with in this way. Young people are satisfied that they are listened to by staff and they

have confidence in the restorative approach. Complaints forms are available from the office. However, there is a lack of these forms around the home.

The safeguarding of the young people is taken seriously and all staff have been trained in child protection awareness. This is further enhanced during supervision meetings as an agenda item. Staff are responsible for ensuring that their skills are updated by using the on line safeguarding training provided by the local authority. Young people say they feel safe living at this home and they know how to make contact with other agencies if required. They are confident that staff will respond to any incidents of bullying that may occur. The restorative approach is used to deal with these situations and staff say that this has culminated in a reduction of reported bullying taking place. This means a safer environment for the young people.

The home has an appropriate procedure to manage situations when young people are absent without authority. Risk assessments identify the actions to be taken for individual young people, if they do not return to the home at agreed times. This enhances their safety.

There is a calm atmosphere within the home and staff base their work with the young people on trust and respect. Staff are trained in behaviour management and use a fair and measured approach to managing behaviour. There is an emphasis on reducing tensions through discussion and restorative justice. Some young people commented that, 'staff are ok and like to talk to you rather than be confrontational'.

Health and safety is managed appropriately. All recommendations made by the fire officer have been complied with. The building has good quality security locks on each entrance door. All applicants for work are required to undergo a robust selection procedure that involves young people, to determine their suitability to work with children.

The safety of the young people is a high priority.

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.