

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC357133
Inspection date	2 December 2009
Inspector	Stella Henderson
Type of Inspection	Random

Date of last inspection	24 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

The home provides care and accommodation for three young people of either gender who are aged between 11 and 17 years. The home is a three storey semi-detached house situated in a community that provides access to public transport and amenities such as sports and leisure facilities.

Summary

The purpose of this unannounced interim inspection was to check on compliance with recommendations made at the last inspection, and to assess outcomes under staying safe and organisation.

Young people continue to receive a good level of care from the home. They are protected by sound procedures for child protection, bullying and absconding. Young people are provided with clear structures and boundaries to enable them to manage their behaviour.

Staff are trained and competent to meet the needs of young people. The acting manager makes good use of up to date research and knowledge to inform practice within the home to secure improved outcomes for young people.

The overall quality rating is good.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection recommendations were made with regard to staffing, the recording of young people's food intake, and night fire drills. Evidence from this inspection demonstrates that these recommendations are met.

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.

Young people are protected by effective practice that safeguards and promotes their wellbeing. Their right to privacy and confidentiality is upheld because information about them is securely stored and staff respect young people's privacy and personal space.

No complaints have been received since the last inspection, but there are sound procedures in place to support young people through this process if required. Young people are protected from abuse and bullying by effective policies and procedures. Clear risk assessments ensure that there are strategies for staff to follow in the case of any unauthorised absences.

Young people are assisted to develop socially acceptable behaviour. Staff are aware of the need to de-escalate incidents and in the very rare event of physical restraint being applied, this is recorded in compliance with these regulations. Sanctions are proportionate to the behaviour presented.

Young people are protected by regular health and safety checks which are carried out within the home, including fire safety. No new members of staff have been appointed since the last inspection but robust recruitment and vetting procedures ensure that only those suitable to work with children and young people are employed at the home.

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 good.

Young people are supported by a well-established staff group which provides stability, security and a sense of belonging. They are supported through regular supervision, training and team meetings.

The acting manager is pro-active in securing training and information, and makes good use of supervision to further his knowledge about how to understand and respond to the needs of young people.

The operation of the home and the welfare of young people is effectively monitored through the independent scrutiny of the regulation 33 visitor, and extensive auditing by the acting manager of the activities and progress of young people.

The statement of purpose is kept under regular review. Young people's records are in good order and provide a clear and accurate record of their progress and development.

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
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Recommendations

There are no recommendations.