

Inspection report for Children's Home

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Inspector	Stella Henderson
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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 outcomes for children set out in the Children Act 2004 and the relevant National Minimum Standards for the service.

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 sport and leisure facilities.

One young person was at the home at the time of this inspection.

Summary

The overall quality rating is satisfactory.

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

This purpose of this visit was to undertake an interim inspection and assess compliance with actions and recommendations raised at the last inspection.

The home continues to provide a satisfactory standard of care. Practice has improved in some areas which enhances the provision of care of young people and the majority of actions and recommendations made at the last inspection have been met.

One action is raised again however, in relation to notifications and a recommendation made to improve practice further in respect of the diet of young people. A further recommendation is raised in relation to the recording of restraints.

Improvements since the last inspection

Recommendations made at the last inspection to ensure proper use of the visitors book and to undertake room searches only in accordance with the home's policy have been successfully implemented. Practice has also improved in relation to ensuring that young people have effective placement plans. Actions relating to the monitoring of the home and the signing off of records and other documentation have also been met.

At the last inspection the provider was required to improve practice in relation to the provision of a varied diet, and a recommendation was raised in relation to recording of food offered to young people. This is partially met in that young people are now offered a wide range of nutritious food.

The alternative menus that young people choose for themselves do not, however, offer a balanced diet and staff still do not consistently record what young people have consumed. A recommendation is raised again to ensure better outcomes for young people in this respect.

The responsible individual has acted on an action raised at the last inspection in relation to notifications. There is still inconsistent practice in this area, however, and an action is raised again.

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

The menu planner for the home shows that young people are now provided with the opportunity to enjoy a wide choice of food. The recording of food consumed has also improved, although there are still some gaps and inconsistencies in this record. For example, young people enjoy eating fruit, but this is not routinely recorded.

The content and range of meals that young people actually consume is limited. For example, young people have items such as crisps, chocolate bars and cheese dippers for breakfast. The manager has consulted with a specialist nurse for advice on how to improve young people's diet but is awaiting a response. In the meantime staff are not pro-active in ensuring that young people are encouraged to improve their diet.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Young people are safeguarded with respect to privacy and dignity. Young people are aware of the need to check on the identity of visitors, and checks on identification are made along with the request to sign the visitors book. The home's policy on room searches has been amended to ensure that young people's right to privacy is upheld.

Effective safeguarding procedures are in place to deal with any allegations against staff. These have been tested and found to be adequate. Bullying is not a problem for young people at this time but staff ensure that young people are aware of the zero-tolerance approach to bullying. If young people feel the need to run away from the home, records show that staff follow procedures to secure young people's return and to offer life space interviews to discuss this.

Young people live in a home that is free from environmental hazards. A range of assessments are in place and regularly reviewed to ascertain the level of risk posed both within and outside of the home. The level of risk to young people is also reduced by sound recruitment and vetting procedures.

Young people's interests are protected by an effective complaints procedure. Ofsted were not notified about a serious complaint about the home and staff working there however, and although other notifications are made, these do not relate to notifiable incidents.

Clear and largely effective behaviour management plans are in place which encourage young people to deal more constructively with their anger. Sanctions are

reasonable and there is regular discussion with young people about how to develop more positive behaviours. Recording of physical intervention is not always in compliance with the national minimum standards.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is not judged.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Young people benefit from clear placement plans which set out their assessed needs and how these are to be met on a day-to-day basis. These are child-friendly documents which young people are encouraged to contribute to.

Achieving economic wellbeing

The provision is not judged.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The manager regularly audits practice and records at the home. This is an area of practice which has improved and means that young people continue to enjoy a reasonable standard of care.

Documentation inspected at this visit was found to be appropriately signed off by members of staff and countersigned where necessary by the manager.

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/s meets the Care Standards Act 2000, Children's Homes Regulations 2001 and the National Minimum Standards. The Registered Provider(s) must comply with the given timescales.

Std.	Action	Due date
20	ensure that if, in relation to a children's home, any of the events	19/01/2011

	listed in column 1 of the table of Schedule 5 takes place, the registered person shall without delay notify the persons indicated in respect of the event in column 2 of the table. (Regulation 30 (1))	
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Recommendations

To improve the quality and standards of care further the registered person should take account of the following recommendation(s):

- ensure that young people enjoy food that is wholesome and nutritious (NMS 10.3)
- ensure that the recording of restraints includes all the information recommended in this national minimum standard. (NMS 22.9)