

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC357468
Inspection date	15 February 2010
Inspector	Anthony Kyem
Type of Inspection	Random

Date of last inspection	23 September 2009
--------------------------------	-------------------

© Crown copyright 2010

Website: www.ofsted.gov.uk

This document may be reproduced in whole or in part for non-commercial educational purposes, provided that the information quoted is reproduced without adaptation and the source and date of publication are stated.

You can obtain copies of The Children Act 2004, Every Child Matters and The National Minimum Standards for Children's Services from: The Stationery Office (TSO) PO Box 29, St Cripins, Duke Street, Norwich, NR3 1GN. Tel: 0870 600 5522. Online ordering: www.tso.co.uk/bookshop

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 one young person of either sex aged between 11 and 17 years. The home is a detached property situated in a private residential area. There is a local bus service providing access to the town centre.

The accommodation provided for young people includes a lounge, kitchen, dining area and three separate bedrooms, one of which is also used as an office. The young person has their own bedroom with private en suite facilities. There is a bathroom on the first floor and a separate toilet on the ground floor. To the rear of the property is an enclosed garden with patio area.

Summary

This was an unannounced interim inspection. The purpose of this visit was to assess the home's capacity to meet the actions and recommendations identified during the previous inspection. The outcome area for staying safe was also assessed.

Young people's welfare and safety is promoted. Staff receive relevant training to enable them to undertake their duties safely. There are good arrangements made for the promotion of health and safety, to keep young people, staff and visitors safe from potential hazards. There are no issues to do with bullying or concerns to do with young people placing themselves at risk of harm.

No actions or recommendations are made as a result of this inspection. Despite the positive improvements made since the last inspection, the home's overall judgment rating has remained satisfactory, as not all key National Minimum Standards were inspected.

The overall quality rating is satisfactory.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

Good improvements have been made since the previous inspection. All actions previously identified have been successfully addressed. Staff are now able to receive relevant training in accordance with the work they perform. All are enrolled to complete National Vocational Qualification training. Information about staff's qualifications and experience, is now included within the home's revised Statement of Purpose.

Staff meetings are held more often, which enables staff to meet as a team and share their views about the operations of the home and reflect on collective practice.

Health and safety issues have been addressed to eliminate potential hazards. The home has produced a building risk assessment, which is now used to promote environmental safety.

Young people's achievements are rewarded and socially acceptable behaviour is actively encouraged. Key working is used to provide young people with better opportunities for planned support.

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's privacy is respected and their private information is treated and handled confidentially. Washing facilities offer young people appropriate protection to wash in private. Young people are provided with their own bedrooms, with private en suite facilities.

There are no issues or concerns to do with young people placing themselves at risk of harm. Young people do not present with any issues in respect of unauthorised absences and no such occurrences have occurred since the last inspection. Equally, there are no issues in relation to safeguarding or with the safe management of young people's behaviours.

The home is a single occupancy children's home and there are no issues to do with bullying. Relationships between young people and staff are positive and these serve to promote young people's welfare and safety. Young people spoken to were content with the services provided to them.

There are no reported issues or concerns raised by young people in relation to their care or safety. Young people continue to benefit from continuity of care, which is provided to them by a trusted and dedicated staff team.

The use of permissible forms of control are rare. Rewards systems are used effectively, to promote socially acceptable behaviour. No restraints have occurred, which is testament to the good quality relationships that exist between young people and staff. The use of sanctions is minimal, with rewards actively preferred in preference to punishments.

Health and safety systems are managed well and these promote environmental safety. All of the required safety tests are up to date in respect of the annual servicing the home's fire, gas and portable electrical appliances. The home risk assessments in respect of fire and the building are used to alert staff to potential hazards.

Staff files and recruitment practices were assessed at the previous inspection. The one identified shortfall with recruitments procedures has been rectified, which ensures that any gaps in employment history are routinely considered as part of the home's overall assessment in relation to staff's suitability.

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
----------	--------	----------

Recommendations

There are no recommendations.