

Inspection report for Children's Home

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Inspector	David Morgan
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Date of last inspection	22/07/2010
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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

This is a four-bedded home that provides medium to long-term care and accommodation for young people aged between 12 and 16 years; it is one of a number of homes operated by the same provider. Young people are referred to the home from a local authority as part of a contractual agreement.

The ground floor consists of a lounge, dining room, kitchen, utility room, toilet and two offices. The first floor consists of four bedrooms for young people, a bathroom and staff sleep-in room. There is a rear garden with sufficient space for ball games and a games room is accessible from the garden. The home is located a short bus ride from a city centre and a range of amenities.

One young person contributed directly to this inspection.

Summary

The overall quality rating is good.

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

This unannounced interim inspection finds that the overall quality rating is being maintained at a good standard. The only areas inspected during this inspection are matters raised last time and the safety of young people. The previous action and recommendations have been addressed and no further shortfalls are identified this time. Overall, the service is progressing well with good attention to detail and to the individual needs of young people.

Improvements since the last inspection

The last report made one action and two recommendations. Attention to young people's individual needs has been improved by preparing placement plans before or immediately after their admission. Documents are also compiled that show the likely impact of any new young people on the home. This process helps to ensure that placement planning is accurate and that the needs of existing young people are taken into account. Safety issues pertaining to individual young people are kept under review and are shown clearly on their files. Action is taken to reduce the impact of any risks, for example, regarding smoking on site.

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.

There are strong systems in place to ensure that young people are as well protected as possible. Their privacy is well respected and information is confidentially handled. Staffing arrangements, including those for new staff, are thorough and ensure that all reasonable measures are taken to employ suitable candidates. Existing staff display a sound understanding of safety and safeguarding issues. Rotas are kept under review so there is an appropriate balance of staff skills among those staff allocated to each shift. Any steps required to keep young people safe from bullying or being absent without authority are undertaken promptly. Such action includes having detailed conversations with the young people to help them understand the risks involved and the expectations of staff.

Young people are helped to understand the procedures, whether it be regarding complaints or fire safety. Their personal files show if there are any individual risks and what measures are in place to reduce them. Good practice by staff is represented by the level of understanding displayed by young people and the additional documentation completed by staff. There is also close contact with other professionals such as the police and social workers. Fire safety measures are thorough too and ensure that staff and young people are familiar with the safest way to evacuate the property.

Behaviour management procedures are applied fairly with attention being paid to helping young people learn from their mistakes. A clear reward system is used to encourage positive behaviour, such as regular school attendance, which is most successful. Physical interventions are rarely used although all staff are appropriately trained.

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.