

Inspection report for Children's Home

Unique reference number	SC362094
Inspection date	25/02/2011
Inspector	Trevor Hall
Type of inspection	Random

Date of last inspection	30/11/2010
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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 home provides short to medium term care and accommodation for up to two young people aged between eight and 17 years of age, who display either extremely challenging, inappropriate sexualised or destructive behaviours. The service is operated by a large national provider of children's homes. The home provides each young person with safe adult support, clear and consistent boundaries and access to a range of therapeutic, educational, social and health related services. At no time will the age gap between young people residing in the home be greater than five years. The manager is also registered for another small home one mile away, and the staff team are shared between these two homes. At the time of inspection two young people were in residence and both participated in the inspection.

Summary

The overall quality rating is outstanding.

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

This was an unannounced interim inspection that concentrated on key national minimum standards in the every child matters area of staying safe. Two young people were living at the home, none were present during the inspection.

The overall judgement for this service is remains outstanding. Young people are being looked after by a competent well-trained team of staff. The Registered Manager provides strong and consistent leadership that is focused on meeting young people's needs. Young people live in a very stable home and they are fully consulted about their day-to-day care and support. Staff have effective partnerships with other agencies and professionals to ensure young people receive the services they are entitled to. Young people are very happy with the home and the staff that work with them.

Improvements since the last inspection

There were three recommendations made at the last inspection. All of these recommendation have been met. The home has improved its recording systems for the administration of medication to ensure greater accuracy in respect of stock control. Increased efforts have been made, through the use of key worker sessions, to ensure that all young people are fully aware of the content of their placement plans.

No new young person has been admitted to the home since the last inspection, as such the need for the application of an impact risk assessment, prior to admission of a new resident has not been required. Procedures for applying such assessments are

now part of the home's pre-admission documentation, particularly for those residents who are admitted in emergency situations.

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is not judged.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

Young people live a stable and safe environment that successfully promotes and protects their welfare. There are robust staff recruitment procedures and young people are kept safe by staff who are well trained in safeguarding children procedures, first aid, behaviour management and health and safety. There are very clear procedures in place for responding to any child protection or safe care concerns and these arrangements are reinforced by induction and refresher training for all staff in a number of key practice areas. The home's records, supported by discussions with duty staff, describe an excellent working relationship with the Local Safeguarding Children Board. There are clear procedures and accountable recording processes for recognising and responding to any such concerns.

Staff respect young people's right to privacy and have good policies that indicate when it is permissible for staff to search young people's bedrooms. Good records of these searches are maintained, that include a list of items removed, they also make it clear if the young person was present during the search and if not they detail the reason why.

Further positive steps are taken by the home to ensure safeguarding arrangements are robust and relevant to each young person's circumstances. Young people are discouraged from being away from the home without permission and staff use effective reporting systems to help reduce the possible risks associated with this kind of behaviour.

Staff promote a culture in which bullying is openly discussed and challenged. Residents' meetings include a standing item on relationships and respect, which ensures that young people are aware of all potential aspects of bullying behaviour. There is literature available within the home for young people to read about bullying and contact numbers for external support agencies.

Complaint procedures are available to young people. These are written within a guide given to young people when they first arrive at the home. Young people are aware of how to make a complaint although this is not common at this home. Staff understand the process and ensure that young people are assisted to write their grievances if they wish.

Young people are cared for in a safe and secure environment. Health and safety monitoring checks and servicing of equipment are undertaken regularly. There are comprehensive risk assessments for individual young people, group activities and the environment. Staff have an excellent and practical understanding of the known and potential risks for individual young people and know how to safeguard them successfully.

Safe procedures are in place to protect young people from fire and prevention systems are regularly tested and serviced. Staff and young people undertake fire drills in excess of what is required. Regular servicing and maintenance is completed on all gas and electrical equipment. Certificates of public and employer liability insurance are displayed as required and all certificates and health and safety records are up to date and well maintained. The young people's home environment is monitored well and is very safe.

Safe recruitment practices ensure all new staff are vetted before they work at the home. Visitors identification is also routinely checked making sure all who have contact with young people are suitable to do so. Young people are looked after by staff who have gone through a robust selection process to safely work at this setting.

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.