

Inspection report for Children's Home

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Inspection date	08/03/2011
Inspector	Dawn Taylor
Type of inspection	Random

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 home provides care and accommodation for up to two young people of either gender aged from 10 years to under 18 years. It is a small semi detached house in a village on the outskirts of a large town.

Summary

The overall quality rating is outstanding.

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

This inspection was an announced interim visit. The inspection focused on the arrangements for keeping young people safe.

Young people were not present during the inspection.

The overall quality rating for this setting is outstanding, with an outstanding outcome judgement for staying safe. This company has established policies and procedures, which are underpinned by a comprehensive framework of staff training. This ensures high quality practice, which is sustained and results in robust and outstanding outcomes for young people. The key strengths of this home are the professional staff team and Registered Manager who effectively promote the individual needs of young people. Practice is informed and sensitive and results in excellent outcomes for young people.

Improvements since the last inspection

There were no recommendations or actions made at the last inspection. This home continues to monitor and develop outstanding practice.

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.

The continuing promotion of young people's safety and well-being is outstanding. The manager and staff team have created a welcoming, consistent, secure placement, which enables young people to flourish.

There are clear policies, procedures and staff guidance on promoting safeguarding and privacy, managing challenging behaviour, preventing absence without permission and addressing concerns and incidents of bullying. They are regularly reviewed and updated to reflect developing practice.

These policies and an established programme of training underpins strong working practices that ensure staff have the skills to keep young people safe. The company has made a commitment to ensure all their Registered Managers and seniors complete local authority training for designated safeguarding officers. This is in addition to child protection training that all staff receive as part of their induction and on-going training. The company's training department also continues to be proactive in coordinating staff training with the local authority for all independent sector children's services. The home's Registered Manager is one of two Registered Managers within the company who have qualified with the local authority to deliver this training.

Young people are developing appropriate social and coping skills, through a range of relevant interventions. Incidents within this home are minimal and when they occur are addressed sensitively. Staff have excellent insight into the needs of young people. All staff practice is positive, recognising and celebrating successes through praise and rewards. This practice is enhanced by the regular support the staff team and young people receive from the company's therapist team.

Young people's physical safety is safeguarded through effective health and safety policies. Detailed assessments of risk ensure dangers are identified and actions are put in place to reduce risk. Staff are well informed of each individual's needs through risk assessments and a placement plan. These ensure there are effective strategies that support young people to progress and learn new skills whilst ensuring their safety.

Records relating to staff recruitment and selection were checked at the company's headquarters during the key inspection. The company's recruitment and selection process is robust and the procedure undertakes checks over and above those required in the Children's Homes Regulations.

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.