

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC376719
Inspection date	16 December 2009
Inspector	Dawn Taylor
Type of Inspection	Random

Date of last inspection	5 August 2009
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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 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

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

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

The overall quality rating for this setting is good, with an outstanding outcome judgement for staying safe. Young people live in a home that proactively and effectively safeguards and protects their welfare. This continues to be a strong service that is providing young people with a consistently high standard of care that effectively meets their needs.

The overall quality rating is good.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

There were no actions or recommendations made in the last inspection report. The home continues to monitor and improve the quality of care provided.

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 peoples' safety and wellbeing is outstanding. This service has developed strong links with neighbours and the local community police force and have been proactively involved in hosting the launching of the neighbourhood watch and ring master schemes.

There are established policies, procedures and staff guidance on promoting safeguarding and privacy, managing challenging behaviour, preventing absence without permission and addressing concerns and incidents of bullying. These policies and an extensive programme of training underpins strong working practices that keep young people safe. For example, the company has made a commitment to ensure all their Registered Managers complete local authority training for designated safeguarding officers. The company's training department has also been proactive in coordinating staff training with the local authority for all independent sector children's services and key staff are training to run safeguarding courses with the local authority.

The design of the home and conduct of the staff team ensures young people's right to privacy and secure storage facilities ensure records remain confidential.

Staff are well equipped to support young people through difficult emotional times because they receive comprehensive mandatory training that includes transactional analysis, attachment disorder and cognitive behavioural therapy as well as de-escalation and physical intervention

training. Young people and staff are further supported by a team of therapists, employed by the company, who have a therapeutic base but will also visit young people in their home and who attend all staff meetings.

Young people's safety is promoted by a clear health and safety policy, which ensures risks are identified and appropriate action is taken to manage and reduce them. Young people and staff are involved in fire drills and there are regular checks on all fire and electrical equipment to ensure it is in good working order. All staff are appropriately trained in health and safety matters including first aid and fire awareness.

Records relating to staff recruitment and selection were checked at the company's headquarters in October 2009. 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.

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 Children's Homes Regulations 2001 and the National Minimum Standards. The Registered Provider must comply with the given timescales.

Standard	Action	Due date
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Recommendations

There are no recommendations.