

Inspection report for Children's Home

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Inspector	Ann-Marie Born / Shaun Common
Type of inspection	Random

Date of last inspection	25/11/2010
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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

The children's home provides accommodation for one young person of either sex from 10 years to 17 years of age. The home is in a private housing estate and is similar to other properties in the area. It has three bedrooms. One bedroom is dedicated for a young person, another is a sleep-in room for staff and the third bedroom is currently spare. There is access to local bus routes, and a health centre is a short journey away as are shops and local amenities. The home has a fitted kitchen, a utility room, a bathroom, a separate toilet, an office area and gardens to the front and rear of the property.

One young person lives at the home, but was not present during the inspection.

Summary

The overall quality rating is good.

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

This was an unannounced interim inspection at which the outcome area of staying safe was inspected. Actions taken in response to previous recommendations were also assessed.

This children's home is a good service. The culture of the setting is homely, friendly and child centred. Robust recruitment and selection procedures are in place which safeguard young people. Positive behaviour management techniques and individual support offered to young people are a major strength.

Improvements since the last inspection

Three recommendations were made as a result of the last inspection and all have been fully met. The home was asked to ensure a suitable and hygienic storage for all medications was provided that did not involve the storage of other non-medicinal items. A separate locked metal box has been provided that only holds medication. The absence without authority procedures were updated in January 2011. Young people's risk assessments have been revised to measure the likelihood and severity of an activity via a red/green/amber assessment score.

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.

Policies and procedures are in place with regard to maintaining young people's confidentiality, privacy and dignity. Young people have their own lockable bedrooms and bathing facilities. A room search policy is in place but records show that this has not had to be implemented. All records are kept in secure conditions. Young people have access to a private telephone if appropriate to their individual needs. Staff understand and implement the procedures, thereby respecting and promoting young people's privacy and confidentiality.

There is a complaints policy in place and issues are dealt with by staff as they occur. Young people know how to make contact with outside agencies if they wish to do so. Staff are trained in the home's complaints procedure and know how to support young people to make a complaint and afterward. This promotes their rights. A complaints log is in place which shows there have not been any complaints since the last inspection.

Staff are appropriately trained in child protection and have access to the home's own child protection procedures, Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures and a staff guide. They demonstrate a clear awareness of their responsibilities to safeguard children. There have not been any child protection referrals since the last inspection.

There have not been any incidents of bullying in the home, which is a single placement. Staff are trained in countering bullying and how to support a young person who may have been bullied outside the home. A bullying policy is in place which further supports staff practice and protects young people.

A procedure is in place for staff to follow if there is an unauthorised absence and a good understanding of this was demonstrated. This appropriately safeguards young people. There have not been any unauthorised absences since the last inspection.

Encouragement of positive activities and behaviours among young people by the staff is a strength. Young people are supported and enabled to develop social and life skills. Positive, appropriate behaviour is used by staff to promote positive behaviours. Policies and log books are in place with respect to restraints and sanctions to underpin staff practice. There have not been any restraints or sanctions since the last inspection.

Effective systems are in place for monitoring and managing health and safety within the home. There are a range of risk assessments of young people's known and likely activities as well as for external visits and the environment. Fire safety evacuations and drills are practised regularly and recorded appropriately. The servicing and maintenance of all domestic and fire safety appliances are up to date, thereby promoting the safety of young people and staff.

Robust recruitment and selection procedures are in place. These enhance the safety of young people and safeguard them from inappropriate staff being appointed.

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.