

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC386502
Inspection date	7 July 2010
Inspector	Norma Welsby
Type of Inspection	Random

Date of last inspection	13 January 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 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 children's home is a detached house, domestic in character and situated in a busy residential area. The home is registered for three children and young people between the ages of 10 years and 17 years of age. As well as long stay placements, the service also provides one respite place.

The location of the home provides good access to a wide range of community facilities. Young people have their own bedroom and access to good standard of communal space and outdoor gardens and equipment.

One young person was present at the time of this visit and made an excellent contribution to the inspection.

Summary

At this unannounced interim inspection, staying safe was examined and judged to be good. No actions or recommendations have arisen from this inspection.

This service continues to work very positively with young people. The staff team work hard to provide a nurturing environment in which young people feel safe and well cared for. Young people are given diverse opportunities to develop key skills and explore their potential. Young people are regularly consulted and empowered, for example, they are able contribute to their plan of care. This supports the finding that the service places great emphasis on young people achieving maximum benefit from their placement.

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 at the last inspection.

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.

The service has comprehensive policies and procedures in place to ensure that young people are safe. Staff are thorough and competent in their practices and work in a flexible and imaginative way to support young people to do well in their placement.

Staff promote the privacy of young people well. Young people's need for personal space and their right to have personal information treated in a confidential way is consistently respected by staff. Staff recognise the differing needs of each young person, for example, in respect of differences in age, gender and health needs. Each young person can lock their bedroom door, enjoy personal space and all have a safe in their bedroom to keep personal items secure and private. Staff also work hard to encourage young people to respect and support each other.

The service has an established and thorough complaints procedure. Young people are given appropriate information and know how to complain. Young people are very confident and articulate in their communication and staff work hard to develop an open and frank rapport.

Staff treat the safety and welfare of young people very seriously. Staff receive ongoing training and have access to written procedures and line management support. The home has established very good links with the local safeguarding team and liaises openly with them and other professionals, such as police and social workers, when any issues arise. The home has forged particularly good links with the local community police service and this supports the view that staff are very committed to keeping young people safe. Young people also benefit from regular key worker sessions and one-to-one discussions.

Young people are aware that bullying is not acceptable. Staff promote positive role models and encourage young people to manage difficult situations in a mature and considered way and to develop their coping skills and tolerance. Any behaviours that are potentially bullying are well managed.

The service has appropriate systems in place to protect young people should they go missing from home, including individual protocols that have been agreed with relevant agencies. Staff are very open with young people about the procedures staff must follow and what role the police have in returning young people to safety. This awareness benefits young people, by helping them to take greater responsibility for their own safety and actions.

Young people are encouraged to develop socially acceptable behaviour. The staff team work closely together and communicate well, ensuring consistent practice across the team. Staff receive regular training in positive handling strategies and meet regularly to discuss and review progress. Staff and young people enjoy a very good rapport and their relationships are built on honesty and mutual respect. Staff use incentives to encourage good behaviour and some sanctions, including reparation, but these are low level and proportionate.

The home is very well maintained and affords a comfortable and domestic environment. A comprehensive programme of maintenance and servicing is in place. Extensive risk assessments are also in place, for example, in respect of fire safety and risks associated with gas and electrical equipment. This supports the finding that young people live in an attractive and safe home.

The home continues to have a robust recruitment process which suitably safeguards young people.

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 Childrens 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.