

Inspection report for Children's Home

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Inspector	Andrew Hewston
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Date of last inspection	10/06/2010
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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 home provides individual bedrooms for three young people, and communal areas that are downstairs including two lounge areas, a kitchen and conservatory area. The home has a pleasant garden area and field adjacent to the building.

The home is situated in a semi-rural area, with limited access to public transport, but is within easy reach of a wide range of leisure activities and the organisation's school.

Young people accommodated have a range of behavioural and emotional difficulties.

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 completed to examine the actions and recommendations made at the previous inspection. The staying safe outcome was also examined. Two young people were spoken to during the inspection.

Staff have responded well to previous recommendations. The inspection showed that the young people continue to receive a good level of care from the staff team. Young people's safety is promoted thoroughly within the home.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection two actions and four recommendations were made. All of these have been fully completed. In order to ensure the health of the young people full health plans are now available within young people's placement plans and files, staff have completed training in medication administration and medication requiring a specific policy for when it has to be used has been withdrawn. The inspection of medication did highlight the need for an improvement in recording in line with the expectations of the medication label. All young people now have full placement plans that clearly highlight how specified young people's needs are to be met. Complaints records now contain the outcomes of concerns and there is evidence of a recent electrical survey now available.

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.

Staff ensure that young people's privacy is promoted within the home. They have access to a telephone that is able to be used in private. Room searches are fully recorded and young people are expected to sign off these records to show that they are aware that searches have been completed. Permissions are in place from placing social workers relating to the door monitoring system that is in place.

Young people make use of the home's complaints systems and all concerns raised are fully investigated. Social workers are contacted relating to complaints, where necessary, and outcomes are fully recorded including a letter to the young people following the completion of investigations. Information relating to contacting Ofsted is within a newly updated young people's guide. Disagreements and some bullying occurs within the home between the young people. The staff are fully aware of such instances and practical responses, including increased supervision and the change in use of one area of the home, are in place. Instances of bullying behaviour are discussed as part of key working sessions.

All staff have completed training in child protection procedures and basic reporting procedures are available within the office. No issues have been raised since the last inspection at the home.

Behaviour management plans are in place for all of the young people, these are written in conjunction with the local police and show that staff have a very good awareness of the young people's behaviours. The home uses a range of systems to promote positive behaviour including rewards for chores, education attendance and notable improvements or helping out. Sanctions are fully recorded and the manager ensures that these are appropriate through regular monitoring. All staff are trained in the use of physical restraint and there are full records of these in place. However staff are occasionally referencing or signposting where information is within the restraint log, rather than recording information in line with the expectations of the standards.

Young people and staff are kept safe through regular and through health and safety checks. All fire checks are completed on a regular basis and certification is available regarding a range of utilities. Risk assessments relating to young people and their behaviours are in place and regularly updated. There are also risk assessment in place regarding the home and a range of activities.

Staff recruitment was examined at the last inspection and no issues were raised.

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?

Recommendations

To improve the quality and standards of care further the registered person should take account of the following recommendation(s):

- ensure all medication is administered as prescribed and fully recorded (NMS 13.7)
- ensure all restraints are recorded within the dedicated log book.(NMS 22.13).