

Inspection report for Children's Home

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Inspector	Dawn Taylor
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Date of last inspection	26/04/2010
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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 service accommodates up to five young people of either gender from 11 years to 17 years. The primary aim of the service is to provide a positive environment where young people can be supported to develop life skills and move on into independence. The majority of the young people who leave the home move on into their own property or supported living as they have reached the age of leaving care.

This service is located on the edge of a small town with access to public transport systems. The accommodation provides for a progression from one of three bedrooms within the main house to one of two flats connected to the property.

Summary

The overall quality rating is good.

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 involved in the inspection process.

The overall quality rating for this setting is good, with a good outcome judgement for staying safe. Young people live in a home that proactively safeguards and protects their welfare. The Registered Manager post at this home is currently vacant. There are clear arrangements in place to ensure the safe management of this home until a new manager is recruited.

Improvements since the last inspection

There was one recommendation made at the last inspection to ensure there is a written development plan in place that is reviewed annually. This was not inspected at this inspection and therefore the recommendation remains.

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 systems and practices in place ensure young people's safety and welfare is promoted. The company has a good range of policies and procedures that support staff to resolve complaints, promote young people's privacy and confidentiality, address any bullying issues, refer child protection concerns and reduce incidents of unauthorised absence. These policies are regularly reviewed and updated and take account of local safeguarding arrangements and police protocols. Staff receive an induction and a programme of training, which ensures they know the procedures to follow to ensure a young person is kept safe.

Young people's welfare is promoted by a staff team who work hard to educate them and increase their awareness and understanding of keeping themselves safe. When incidents occur they are recorded and these records are monitored by senior managers for patterns and trends. Staff support young people in managing their behaviour. Staff help young people take control of their lives and make reasoned, positive choices regarding their actions.

Staff vetting records were not examined during this inspection, however, at the previous key inspection they were found to be robust, well organised and clearly demonstrated all the necessary checks being completed prior to employment.

Young people are living in a home where health and safety is a priority. Records and service certificates are up to date. Fire safety tests are undertaken within the appropriate timescales; a fire risk assessment has been completed and staff have received fire safety training.

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 there is a written development plan in place, that is reviewed annually. (NMS 33.5)