

Inspection report for Children's Home

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Inspector	Stella Henderson
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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 is registered to provide care and accommodation for up to three young people of either gender aged between 10 to 17 years of age.

The home is a large property set in a residential suburb that is well served by public transport and amenities such as primary health care services, schools and leisure facilities.

There is ample space for young people to enjoy communal activities or have private space should they so wish. Bedrooms are very spacious as are bathrooms and shower rooms. The home is decorated and furnished throughout to a very high standard.

Summary

The overall quality rating is satisfactory.

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

This was the home's first inspection. No children or young people are currently in residence, and the manager and staff are working in other homes owned by this organisation. This inspection was arranged at very short notice to ensure that the manager could be present to provide access to the home.

Our inspection methodology relies on evidence found at the time of inspection and this essentially includes young people's views about the service. As this evidence is not available when there are no young people present, we have completed a proportionate inspection, the purpose of which is to decide that should an admission be made the service would be able to work to a satisfactory standard. Evidence from this inspection demonstrates this to be the case.

For example, there are suitable arrangements for ensuring that young people are cared for safely and that their health needs are met. The home has appropriate systems in place to ensure that staff are trained and qualified for their work. Sound management arrangements are in place to ensure that the care that is given to young people is monitored and their welfare is promoted. Required policies and procedures are in place to help support staff and safeguard young people.

Improvements since the last inspection

This is the home's first inspection.

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

As part of a larger organisation, the home has well established systems in place to ensure that the good health of young people is promoted.

Suitable policies and procedures are in place to help staff promote young people's health and to ensure that young people's health needs are identified. Health plans record how those needs are to be met and reviewed.

There are appropriate arrangements in place for the safe storage and administration of medication to protect young people and promote their welfare. This includes a clearly accountable system for checking medicines and records. Staff are trained in the delivery of first aid so that they know how to care for young people in an emergency.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

There are appropriate systems in place to ensure that young people are cared for safely. For example, there are suitable arrangements to ensure that the privacy of young people is respected. The home also has a range of policies that relate to safeguarding issues. These include countering bullying, behaviour management, child protection and managing unauthorised absences.

The home's arrangements for the management of risk and health and safety matters are sound and compliant with national minimum standards. As part of a larger organisation, there are robust and well-embedded procedures for ensuring that only those suitable to work with young people are employed at the home.

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 satisfactory.

The home is in a residential area which has good access to public transport and a range of local amenities.

The building itself is indistinguishable from its neighbours, and provides young people with a huge amount of space for communal activities as well as private meetings. The home is very well equipped and furnished and decorated to a high standard.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The service has a clear Statement of Purpose and a detailed young person's guide, both of which provide good written information about how young people are cared for in the home.

There are established systems in place to ensure that the home is appropriately staffed and managed. The identified staff team are well qualified, experienced and skilled in working with young people. They have access to a wide range of appropriate training and receive regular supervision.

The manager is suitably experienced and qualified. There are appropriate management arrangements for monitoring the work of the home, to ensure that good standards of care can be offered to young people on admission.

The home has suitable facilities for the secure storage of information that is kept about young people.