

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC021679
Inspection date	11 January 2010
Inspector	Mark Kersh
Type of Inspection	Random

Date of last inspection	12 October 2009
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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 home is one of a number of children's homes run by a private organisation. The home is located in a diverse area of a city. The home provides medium to long term accommodation for up to four young people of either sex, between the ages of 11 to 17. The accommodation comprises of single bedrooms, a lounge, dining room, kitchen and a communal area. Local shops are easily accessible, as is the bus route into the city centre.

Four young people currently live in this home of whom two were present during this inspection.

Summary

This interim inspection looked at the outcome areas of being healthy, staying safe and organisation. The outcome areas of enjoying and achieving, positive contribution and economic well-being were not inspected.

The home continues to provide an excellent level of care for young people. Appropriate safeguarding measures are in place and staff work alongside young people to ensure their health, safety and well-being is maintained and promoted.

Young people benefit from excellent and effective management of the home. Staff are supported through team meetings, training and supervision. Young people are also protected by safe practices with regard to the employment of new staff, who are provided with the necessary support and supervision.

The overall quality rating is outstanding.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable, there were no requirements or recommendations made at the previous inspection.

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Young people are provided with healthy home cooked meals. Staff promote healthy eating and also support young people to plan and choose the menus. Young people are able contribute to the choice of meals and to participate in the planning, budgeting, buying and preparation of food. There are excellent arrangements in place for promoting the healthy lives of young people living in the home. Staff fully understand that good nutrition plays an important part of maintaining good health and young people are therefore encouraged to eat a healthy, balanced diet.

The promotion of young people's health is excellent. Individual records are detailed and show a comprehensive assessment of all their health needs. In consultation with young people, there is clear planning and guidance for staff in how to support young people and to keep them healthy. There is effective monitoring of the health needs of young people and staff actively educate and encourage young people to stop engaging in activities that may be harmful to their health. For example, discouraging smoking, drugs and alcohol misuse. Referral to specialist

health services are made as and when necessary and young people are also encouraged to make use of local health services, such as sexual health agencies.

There are clear medication procedures and recording systems to help ensure young people receive their medication at the prescribed times. These procedures and recording systems are monitored by the manager and reviewed as part of the quality assurance checks to ensure this important aspect of young people's care is carried out effectively.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

Young people's privacy is respected and all information in respect of them is stored securely for confidentiality reasons. Excellent practice is followed by staff when sharing information with outside professionals and young people to ensure information in respect of them and others is protected. Young people have access to a telephone and can make and receive calls in private. Room searches are conducted with young people present in line with procedural guidance.

Young people benefit from a service that has a strong focus on safeguarding. Staff are trained in, and demonstrate their excellent understanding of, child protection procedures and they work effectively with other agencies on issues such as child sexual exploitation. Staff ensure that young people have a voice, they consult well with them, and any concerns or complaints they have are listened to, acted upon and recorded in detail. The home is effective in addressing issues around bullying and staff follow agreed procedures when young people are absent from the home without authority. In all instances appropriate authorities are notified of significant events.

Staff consult regularly with young people and agree clear boundaries and rules to help them learn to manage their own behaviour. Innovative recording systems are used with young people, which allow them to reflect back on any behaviours they display. Staff monitor these systems and reward young people for their good behaviour. Staff demonstrate well the behaviour strategies used, and how these have a positive affect on young people's behaviour. Sanctions imposed for inappropriate behaviour are reasonable and restraint is rarely used.

Young people, staff and visitors are safe from risk from fire as all the required fire safety checks are completed at regular intervals. Staff and young people are trained in fire awareness. There are a range of risk assessments on individual young people and on identified hazards within the home, and include action plans which are effectively understood and implemented.

Ofsted has undertaken an audit of staff personnel files within the organisation, any shortfalls are being addressed by the provider. There are no issues within this home in respect of recruitment checks, with current staff. Young people confirm their involvement in the recruitment process. They meet new candidates, produce their own questions and are part of the interview process.

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 outstanding.

The manager and staff ensure that young people continue to receive an excellent level of care at the home. Staff are well supported by the manager and by the organisations training programme. Staff receive regular supervision, including new staff who receive supervision every two weeks. Staffing levels are sufficient to meet the needs of young people, and are consistent with the list specified within the Statement of Purpose.

The Registered Manager routinely monitors the performance of the home to ensure that excellent standards are maintained. Regular quality assurance visits are made by a representative of the organisation. These systems ensure a strong emphasis and commitment to providing young people with a high level of care and support.

Young people's case files and other information written about them is of a high standard and their views are clearly recorded. This facilitates excellent communication between young people and staff and between staff and other professionals.

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.