

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	10 June 2009
Inspector	Shaun Common
Type of Inspection	Random

Date of last inspection	19 November 2008
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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

The children's home provides short break care for up to six young people of either sex aged from eight years to 17 years of age with physical or learning disabilities. Young people on occasions can stay at the home beyond the age of 18 year in line with their care planning.

The home is a large detached property standing in its own spacious grounds. It is situated a short distance from a range of local amenities. Young people have access to an outdoor play area, shared lounge, study area and dining room. There is a new sound and light room. Each young person has their own bedroom and access to bathrooms with a range of additional adaptations to ensure that their individual needs can be met.

There was one young person present at the time of the inspection.

Summary

This interim inspection assessed the progress of the home with the statutory requirements and recommendations made at the last inspection. These included providing young people with a balanced diet, managing risk, staff receiving essential training, updating the statement of purpose, including more detail in fire drill records and how views of young people and others are recorded.

The inspection assessed all key standards in the outcome area of staying safe. The inspection did not assess outcomes in the areas of being healthy, enjoying and achieving, positive contribution, economic wellbeing and organisation. The home has strengths in managing young people's behaviour positively and health and safety matters. Improvement is needed in obtaining permission for young people for any required first aid treatment, recording actions and any deficiencies in relation to fire drills, and recording the views of placing social workers about young people's care and the operation of the home.

The overall quality rating is good.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

The registered persons were asked at the last inspection to make improvements in the home. They were asked to ensure that young people are provided with a balanced diet and that risks are identified and recorded showing actions, and to include in the manager's report specific views from young people, parents and placing authorities. They were asked to ensure staff have training in children's intimate care needs, to provide feedback to young people about their house meeting views and to update the statement of purpose with the responsible individual's qualifications and experience. All these matters have been addressed and help to keep young people healthy and safe and to ensure their views and the views of others important to them are recognised and that information about the home for young people and others is accurate.

The registered persons were also asked to obtain permission for young people for any required first aid treatment, include in fire drill records any deficiencies found with actions taken, and record the views of placing social workers about young people's care and the operation of the

home. These have not been addressed and further recommendations will be raised in this inspection report about these matters.

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.

Young people's information is stored securely in the home and they have access to a telephone to keep in touch with people important to them. They have access to complaints information in an appropriate format suitable to their needs which promotes and protects their rights. The home has a suitable method of recording any complaint they may receive and staff know how to support young people who may wish to complain. The home has received a number of compliments about the service it provides.

The home has in place a copy of the Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures and has in place its own child protection procedure. These are accessible to staff and help them keep young people safe. Staff understand and are knowledgeable of the procedure to be followed to protect young people, should an incident of abuse be suspected at the home. The home has an anti-bullying policy. There have been no incidents of bullying and staff are aware of how to counter bullying and protect young people. An absence without authority procedure is in place and staff understand how this must be followed to help them keep young people safe. There has been no recorded absences.

The home has a behaviour management policy that is understood by staff to assist young people's positive social development. There are sanction and restraint books in place; however, no incidents are recorded. Health and safety matters are managed effectively to safeguard young people. For example, there are up-to-date individualised risk assessments that show how risks are minimised or eliminated. Fire drills and tests are regular, portable electrical appliances are maintained and gas installations are checked.

No permanent staff have been recruited since the last inspection. The home has policies and procedures in place for safe recruitment of staff to ensure the right people are employed to work with children.

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

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

- obtain written permission from a person with parental responsibility for each child, for the administration of first aid (NMS 13)
- revise the fire drill record to include comments about the execution of drills or about any deficiency and subsequent action taken to remedy (NMS 26)
- seek the views of placing authority social workers on the care of young people and the overall operation of the home (NMS 8).