

Inspection report for children's home

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<b>Unique reference number</b>	SC001452
<b>Inspection date</b>	1 March 2010
<b>Inspector</b>	Simon Morley
<b>Type of Inspection</b>	Key

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<b>Date of last inspection</b>	20 August 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 is a privately owned children's home. At the time of inspection the home was registered to provide care and accommodation for up to eight children of either gender between the ages of 11 and 17-years-old. The registered provider applied to Ofsted immediately prior to the inspection to lower the age range to accommodate eight-year-olds.

The home is in a residential area close to a wide range of community facilities.

In the home there are six single bedrooms, bathroom and shower room. There is a communal kitchen, dining room, laundry, lounge, games room, computer room and meeting room. There is a garden to the front of the house and a yard to the rear with outdoor seating. At the back of the yard is a separate building which can be used as an additional educational resource.

### **Summary**

This was a key inspection, announced the day before it took place. The inspection covered all the outcome areas and checked compliance with the good practice recommendation made at the last inspection.

The home has changed its Statement of Purpose since the last inspection and no longer cares for unaccompanied asylum seeking children. It now aims to provide care for children and young people whose emotional and behavioural difficulties make it hard for them to live at home or in foster care.

There is a new ethos, philosophy and model of childcare practice that is used to support children living at the home. Children are happy, settled and have good relationships with the staff who look after them. Good practice ensures their health, welfare and safety are well protected and promoted. There is good support to help children with their education and to enjoy their hobbies and interests. Staff encourage children to develop their skills, independence and make their own choices and decisions. The home is well managed helping ensure there are good outcomes for children who live there.

The overall quality rating is good and the registered provider is not required to take any action as a result of this inspection.

The overall quality rating is good.

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

### **Improvements since the last inspection**

There has been some improvement to risk assessments of the outings and trips children go on. This helps to make sure the necessary safety measures are in place to keep children free from harm whilst out on a trip.

### **Helping children to be healthy**

The provision is good.

Overall there are good arrangements for promoting the healthy lives of children at the home.

Information about children's health needs is gathered as part of the admission process. Staff use this information to ensure children receive the health care they need. There is a committed, proactive approach to getting all the information needed and keeping individual health plans up-to-date so that children's health is well protected and promoted. There is effective care practice to procure the health services children need.

Staff promote healthy eating and also support children to plan and choose the menus encouraging them to eat healthy home cooked meals. There are good opportunities for children to learn to bake and cook. Meals are sociable family type occasions with staff and children eating together.

There are effective medication procedures with checks and balances in place to help ensure children get their medication at the right times. The procedures are monitored by the manager and reviewed as part of the quality monitoring in the home. Doing so, helps ensure this important aspect of children's care is completed properly. Staff are trained in medication procedures and in first aid to provide help if there are any accidents.

### **Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe**

The provision is good.

There are good arrangements for keeping children living at the home safe. Staff receive safeguarding training and know what to do to keep children safe if there are any allegations or suspicions of abuse. They are knowledgeable about safeguarding issues and report any concerns to the right authorities.

There is a good ethos and practice with regard to behaviour management. Staff interact and respond well with children engaging them in meaningful activities. Children think the rules are fair and they are treated well by staff. They are praised for good behaviour and staff use effective methods to resolve any challenging

unacceptable behaviour. As a last resort, approved physical interventions are used to protect the safety of children. This has not been needed at the home for quite some time and the use of sanctions as a response to poor behaviour is also very limited. Any incidents and use of sanctions are well recorded and monitored to protect the children and make sure staff practice is good. Staff receive regular training about behaviour management and their positive approach to care helps ensure that children develop good social behaviour.

Staffing levels and care practice ensures that children are well supervised, do not go missing and are free from bullying at the home. Children's privacy is respected, telephone calls and meetings can be in private and personal information is kept secure and safe. There is good practice supporting children with personal care promoting dignity, privacy and appropriate behaviour.

There is a complaints process in place and staff resolve issues children raise as they occur. Children know how to complain and contact their social workers if they are unhappy about anything.

Children's choices and development are supported through a suitable approach to risk management, which also keeps them safe. The home is well maintained and provides good physical safety and security.

There are good recruitment procedures to make sure only those staff who are safe and suitable get to work in the home. Similarly any visitors are monitored to ensure the safety of children in the home.

## **Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do**

The provision is good.

There is good individual support for children. Their education is promoted, interests and hobbies are encouraged and developed. Staff are knowledgeable about individual children and their care needs, which are well recorded in each child's placement plan and daily routines. Support children receive helps them develop their potential, mature and achieve.

Education is actively promoted and there is good communication with schools children attend. There is a range of resources in the home and effective support from staff to support children with their education.

Staff encourage children to be involved in a wide range of leisure activities indoors and out in the community. There is a good range of resources at the home: toys, books, games, dvds, a computer/play room and a garden. There are regular trips out for leisure and education purposes. Children have good support to use local community facilities and to mix with other children of similar ages.

## **Helping children make a positive contribution**

The provision is good.

Staff help children to make choices and decisions made about their lives and the running of the home. This usually starts with well planned admissions, which are sensitive to the needs of children moving into the home. On occasions children also move in, in emergency circumstances.

As part of the admission process a wide range of information is obtained about children and their care needs.

This is used to write good individual plans of care detailing the support children will get from staff to ensure their health, welfare and safety is promoted and protected. There is a good response to children's views about their care. Individual care plans are regularly reviewed to reflect children's achievements and development.

There is good support for children to maintain contact with and visit their families and friends as agreed with social workers.

Children have plenty of opportunities to choose how they spend their time, to participate in decisions about their care, the running of the home and social events. Staff interact well with children treating them with respect, promoting individuality, modelling and rewarding good behaviour. This has helped develop good relationships. Staff are caring, thoughtful and enthusiastic in making sure children are well looked after and have a positive experience of living at the home. This is reflected in comments from children who say they like the home, the staff and are happy living there.

## **Achieving economic wellbeing**

The provision is good.

Staff are good at helping children to make choices, progress and develop their independence. There are plenty of opportunities so that children can develop life skills, their social skills, confidence and self-esteem.

The home is situated in a residential area providing children with good quality accommodation.

Children benefit from a friendly, welcoming, homely atmosphere. Décor and furnishings are of good quality and the home is clean and tidy.

## Organisation

The organisation is good.

The home is well managed and run in the best interests of the children living there.

There is detailed information in the form of a Statement of Purpose about the home, which is an accurate and up-to-date document and the home is run in accordance with this. This helps children, their relatives and social workers to know what to expect from the home. The children's guide, which is a more user friendly version of the Statement of Purpose is being reviewed as it is not up-to-date with how the home is run. This shortfall has had no impact on children so far as only one child has been admitted and staff have explained the rules of the home and what to expect.

There are clear deputising arrangements in the manager's absence and good staffing levels that ensures

children are well supported. Staff have or are working towards the required care qualification that demonstrates their competence to do this job. There is good support from the manager and staff go on a variety of training courses to help them provide quality care for the children they look after.

The promotion of equality and diversity is good. Care practice promotes social inclusion, participation and children's individual needs including age, race, religion, culture and disability. Children are involved in a variety of cultural events throughout the year. Care records are well kept and reflect children's needs, progress and individuality.

There is effective monitoring of care practice to help make sure staff are doing their jobs well and children

benefit from good outcomes. This includes a written development plan for the future of the home identifying aims and objectives for improving the service.

## 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.