

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC001452
Inspection date	20 August 2009
Inspector	Simon Morley
Type of Inspection	Random

Date of last inspection	29 January 2009
--------------------------------	-----------------

© Crown copyright 2009

Website: www.ofsted.gov.uk

This document may be reproduced in whole or in part for non-commercial educational purposes, provided that the information quoted is reproduced without adaptation and the source and date of publication are stated.

You can obtain copies of The Children Act 2004, Every Child Matters and The National Minimum Standards for Children's Services from: The Stationery Office (TSO) PO Box 29, St Cripins, Duke Street, Norwich, NR3 1GN. Tel: 0870 600 5522. Online ordering: www.tso.co.uk/bookshop

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, registered to provide care and accommodation for up to eight children of either gender between the ages of 11 and 16 years old. The home provides care solely for unaccompanied asylum seeking children.

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

In the home there are eight single bedrooms, bathroom and shower room. There is a communal kitchen, dining room, laundry, lounge, games room and computer 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 used as an educational resource to teach children from the home and the local community.

Two of the eight young people living at the home contributed to the inspection and made some comments about their care.

Summary

This was an unannounced inspection of the home's safeguarding arrangements. No other outcome areas were included.

There is good practice, policies and procedures to ensure that young people are well protected from harm and neglect. Young people are safe living at the home and this outcome area is judged to be good. There is no change to the overall quality rating which is also good.

As a result of this inspection one good practice recommendation has been made to the Registered Provider.

The overall quality rating is good.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

There were no statutory actions or good practice recommendations made at the last inspection.

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.

There are good arrangements to protect young people from harm and help them stay safe. This is reflected in well developed practice and procedures adapted to meet the specific needs of the current residents. Young people are free from bullying in the home and there has been no occasion when any of them have been missing from care. Staff have had child protection training and demonstrate good knowledge and understanding of the safeguarding procedures, to promote and protect the young people's safety. This is also reflected in care records demonstrating an effective approach at safeguarding young people's welfare.

The behaviour management policy and practice is based on the use of praise, encouragement and de-escalation techniques to improve young people's behaviour. There are regular residents meetings in which issues of behaviour and conduct are raised and solutions sought through discussion and group consent. As a result physical intervention is not needed to manage behaviour and sanctions are rare. Staff are trained in policies and practice about behaviour management and keep good records about any incidents of poor behaviour.

The young people know how to make a complaint, staff have explained what to do and there is information in the young people's guide and around the home, in various languages, about how to complain. There are also external helping agencies that will act as advocates for young people and there is provision for interpreters if needed.

Young people's privacy is respected, they have access to a private telephone and personal records about their care are stored safely to maintain appropriate levels of confidentiality.

Written risk assessments are recorded, to enable staff to know what action to take, to minimise the risk to each young person from their individual behaviours and any risks from the physical environment. These are clearly written and they are reviewed regularly. This is not always the case for organised trips out which is covered by a generic assessment, but does not include specific information about potential hazards and measures needed to limit risks. All staff and young people have been involved in regular fire drills. Staff working at the home have received fire safety training and records of fire safety checks and other safety records are up to date and accurate to ensure young people live in a safe environment.

There have been no new staff employed since the last inspection and there are good procedures to ensure that staff are suitable to work with young people.

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 Children's Homes Regulations 2001 and the National Minimum Standards. The Registered Provider must comply with the given timescales.

Standard	Action	Due date
----------	--------	----------

Recommendations

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

- ensure there are separate written risk assessments for organised trips out that identify hazards, estimate levels of risk and identify action taken to reduce risks to an acceptable level (NMS26.2).