

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC055912
Inspection date	17 February 2010
Inspector	Jackie Callaghan
Type of Inspection	Random

Date of last inspection	16 July 2009
--------------------------------	--------------

© Crown copyright 2010

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

The home is registered to provide care and accommodation for a total of four young people with learning disabilities between the ages of 10 and 17 years. The home can also provide a service for up to two young people who have additional physical disabilities.

All young people are provided with single bedrooms. The rear of the home has a garden and patio area with ramped access to the lawn. A car park is available at the front of the home for visitors and staff. The home is situated close to a city centre and is within short travelling distance of most local amenities. Staff at the home have use of a vehicle to further assist young people to access the community. Four young people currently live at the home, one of which was present throughout all of the inspection.

Summary

This was an announced interim inspection that concentrated on following up actions and recommendations made at the home's last key inspection. This inspection also specifically focused on areas related to keeping young people safe.

This visit found that the home provides a good standard of care and support to help young people flourish in their social and emotional development. Staff relationships with young people are caring and very supportive. However, one action has been repeated in organisation as the frequency of supervision is still not meeting national minimum standards (NMS). One new recommendation has been raised in staying safe to ensure that gaps in employment are fully explored with the applicant.

The overall quality rating is satisfactory.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

The home now has an accurate record of all medication taken by the young people and staff also ensure that the audit sheets are signed. This ensures a continual range of health benefits for young people. The home's complaints policy now reflects the correct contact details of the regulatory body. This ensures that young people, parents and others can make complaints directly to this body if they wish.

An action was raised at the last inspection to ensure that all persons receive appropriate supervision. This has not been met as new staff are not receiving fortnightly supervision. This action will be repeated at this inspection.

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Young people are robustly protected by the systems and policies in place for the safe administration, storage and disposal of medications. Staff receive comprehensive medication training during induction. Records are detailed and well maintained. Good auditing processes effectively enable staff to recognise quickly if any mistakes have been made in the administration of any medication. Thus, safeguarding young people's health.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Young people's privacy and confidentiality is respected by staff. Records are kept locked away and young people's issues are not discussed openly. There is a good range of policies and procedures that relate to the protection of young people. Staff receive child protection training, and are following the latest inter-agency policy and reporting procedures. As a result, young people live in a stable and safe environment.

There have been no complaints raised since the last inspection, however, the provision does have good processes in place to facilitate any issues being raised and addressed. Young people are protected from bullying as staff present a clear commitment to promoting behaviour that is respectful. There are good systems in place which are used successfully for young people when they are absent without authority. No young people have left the home without permission since the last inspection. This demonstrates that staff's practice is successful.

Staff have a good understanding of the behavioural needs of the young people ensuring observations are recorded. They communicate clear expectations regarding boundaries which sufficiently help young people to begin to understand consequences for their behaviour.

The home has a good fire risk assessment in place with weekly recorded monitoring of fire alarm bells, fire points and emergency lighting. Regular fire drills are taking place to ensure that all young people and staff are knowledgeable about how to evacuate the building safely.

The home operates a good staff vetting procedure. However, it is not in all cases clear within the written documentation that gaps in employment are being explored with applicants. This has the potential to undermine staff's overall proactive awareness of the need to safeguard 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 satisfactory.

Staff supervision processes although vastly improved, are still not fully meeting frequency as stipulated by NMS. It is recognised that the Registered Manager had to work directly with the young people to cover a shortage in staffing. This meant that they did not have as much management time. Staffing is now up to full capacity so the Registered Manager can now begin to concentrate on their management duties.

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
28	ensure all persons receive appropriate supervision (Regulation 27.4(a))	17 April 2010

Recommendations

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

- ensure that any gaps in employment have a satisfactory written explanation (NMS 27, schedule 2).