

Inspection report for children's home

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<b>Unique reference number</b>	SC368032
<b>Inspection date</b>	6 August 2009
<b>Inspector</b>	Julian Mason
<b>Type of Inspection</b>	Key

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<b>Date of last inspection</b>	12 February 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**

The home is registered to provide medium to long-term placements for three young people between the ages of 11 to 17 years who may have a range of emotional and behavioural difficulties. The property is a large detached family size house in an established residential area close to a local town centre. The aim of the home is to offer individualised support designed to achieve stability and to prepare young people for a return home or independent living.

### **Summary**

This key inspection was a short-notice announced visit. The outcome groups relating to being healthy, staying safe and organisation were assessed.

At the time of the inspection the home was not providing accommodation or services to any young people. The inspection methodology relies on evidence found at the time of inspection and this essentially includes case tracking individual files to assess how well young people's needs are being met and users' views about the service. As this evidence is not available when no young people are present a proportionate inspection is completed; the purpose of which is to decide that should an admission be made, the service will be able to work to a satisfactory standard.

The overall quality rating is satisfactory.

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

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

At the last inspection, the home was required to improve the complaints policy to ensure it adequately described how complaints against the registered manager or responsible individual can be made. This requirement has now been completed.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

The home has the necessary policies, procedures and recording systems in place to guide staff practice in meeting young people's needs and promoting their good health and wellbeing. The registered manager knows how to help young people access community services as and when needed. No young people have been admitted to the home since its registration in March 2008 therefore staff guidance or recording systems have not been used.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

The home has systems and procedures in place to support young people's safety and protection. Policies are also in place to guide staff practice in areas such as: privacy and confidentiality, complaints, bullying, absconding, behaviour management, health and safety and staff selection, recruitment and vetting. The home has not provided services to any young people since registration in March 2008 therefore has not needed to use the available guidance, recording or reporting systems.

The registered manager has improved the home's complaints policy to strengthen the guidance available to staff.

### **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.

The home has a suitable statement of purpose and children's guide which details the guiding principles and ethos of the service. The statement of purpose is widely available to those people who have an interest in what the home does. In addition, there are a range of policies in place that outline important operational areas such as the staffing structure, supervision and training arrangements. The registered manager who is appropriately skilled, experienced and qualified currently provides a caretaking role over the property to ensure the home remains operational and ready to admit young people when necessary.

The promotion of equality and diversity is satisfactory. At the registration stage, the responsible individual and registered manager demonstrated a clear understanding of young people's potential needs in relation to race, culture and religion. The home also has policies that describe how staff will work in a fair and non-judgemental way. The organisation and registered manager have appropriate systems in place to monitor and audit the quality of care being provided.

### **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
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#### **Recommendations**

There are no recommendations.