

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	25 November 2009
Inspector	Sean White
Type of Inspection	Random

Date of last inspection	13 July 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 service is a children's home for boys and girls aged from 11 to 18 years and offers medium to long-term care for young people with emotional and behavioural difficulties. It is situated close to leisure facilities and shops. There are regular bus and train services to nearby towns.

Each young person has their own bedroom situated on the first floor and there are two bathrooms and a games room. On the ground floor there is a lounge, dining room, kitchen, the education room and two offices. There is a good size garden area to the side and back of the house and car parking at the front.

Summary

This is a home that continues to provide good levels of care to children. Its careful and structured approach provides a safe experience for children from challenging backgrounds. There is a clear child-centred approach that promotes their welfare and keeps them safe.

The overall quality rating is good.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

The manager responded quickly to issues raised following the last inspection and arranged for the accommodation to be decorated and repaired to a good standard. This enables children to live in a pleasant, attractive environment.

The manager has also instituted a more robust approach in respect of staff training in the administration of prescribed medication, which includes induction and on-going training.

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.

The home has a clearly focused approach to meeting the needs of children with challenging backgrounds and experiences through a structured model of care that is aimed at promoting their welfare and keeping them safe.

All children have their own bedroom, which they have access to out of school hours, enabling them to have privacy. Staff respect children's privacy and will only compromise it if there are serious concerns about a child's safety or welfare. There is a clear understanding in the home about security and confidentiality matters in respect of both the children's physical need for privacy, and in respect of records and information.

The home encourages children's involvement and participation in most aspects of the home's operations, and accepts criticism and complaint responsibly. All complaints are taken seriously, responded to in writing and acted upon in a timely and thorough way. The manager has a particularly sensitive approach to children's concerns and manages them in a way that they can appreciate and understand.

The policies and procedures in place are well written and provide a strong underpinning for the home's operations and practices. Safeguarding and the promotion of welfare is at the forefront of the home's philosophy and this is established firmly in procedures and aided by strong working relationships with, and the provision of training by, the Local Safeguarding Children's Board.

Although relationships between children can, from time-to-time, become strained, there is little evidence of bullying in the home. There is an active approach to avoiding inappropriate behaviour towards others and it is clear the staff aim to alleviate such behaviour through realistic supervision and the development of clear boundaries. Robust procedures and risk assessments underpin this.

When children are missing without permission, the staff have a clear approach to managing this based upon clear, documented risk assessments. There are good relationships in place with the local police and they work together to secure the safety of children that are vulnerable when absent.

The premises are well maintained, comfortable and provide a pleasant environment within which children can live safely and securely. There is a robust approach to making sure the home is risk-free; safety measures are in place and routine maintenance ensures there is a constant rolling programme of checking and testing.

The systems in place for recruiting workers are robust and ensure only the most suitable people are employed. Well ordered records show there is a clear process for checking staff's backgrounds and suitability and that people do not take up their employment until all required information is in place.

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 good.

The home has had some refurbishment and decoration in recent times that has resulted in the bedrooms and bathrooms being made pleasant and homely.

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
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Recommendations

There are no recommendations.