

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC059203
Inspection date	26 February 2010
Inspector	Dennis Bradley
Type of Inspection	Random

Date of last inspection	21 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 children's home is located near to the centre of a rural town. It provides a short break service at weekends and for identified periods during school holidays, for up to six children from the age of six to 17 years who have a learning disability. It is a service provided by the local authority.

The home is situated in its own grounds a short distance from the centre of the town. Accommodation is arranged on two floors with access by the main staircase with no available lift. Children are provided with their own bedrooms on the first floor and there is an enclosed garden and play area.

Summary

Only the key standards under Staying Safe have been covered at this interim inspection. The evidence gained will be used to form part of the overall rating at the next key inspection. Therefore the overall rating remains the same as the previous key inspection. The inspection was unannounced and four of the young people who use the service were present. There were no requirements or recommendations raised following the last inspection.

There was evidence of very positive relationships between the staff and young people who use the service. The home provides a secure, safe setting for the young people. Staff respect the privacy and dignity of young people and make sure their welfare is promoted and safeguarded.

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 requirements or recommendations raised following 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.

Staff are good at respecting the privacy of the young people and they make sure information about the young people and their families is handled confidentially. There are policies and procedures in place to help ensure this happens.

There are clear procedures for managing complaints appropriately and ensuring young people and their families are listened to. Staff make sure the young people and their families are aware of who they can go to if they have any complaints or concerns. There is a pictorial complaints procedure for young people who cannot communicate verbally. Staff take any complaints or concerns seriously and deal with them promptly and appropriately.

The home has clear procedures for safeguarding young people from abuse and all of the staff have had child protection training. This training helps staff protect young people from abuse and ensure they respond appropriately to any allegation or suspicion of abuse.

Staff create an atmosphere where bullying is known to be unacceptable. The home has a clear anti-bullying policy and staff carry out individual risk assessments where necessary to help reduce the risk of bullying. Staffing levels and staff vigilance help make sure that any bullying behaviour would be dealt with promptly. Staff have also had training in how to counter bullying.

There have been no incidents involving young people going missing. Staff vigilance and the levels of supervision they are able to provide helps make sure this does not happen.

Staff are very good at encouraging and supporting the young people to develop and maintain socially acceptable behaviour. They give very positive messages to young people to reinforce acceptable behaviour. They use sanctions very sparingly and rarely have to use restraint holds to manage young people’s behaviour. Some young people have behaviour management plans. These are clearly recorded and staff agree them with the young people’s families. All of the staff have had training in positive behaviour management and this is part of a rolling programme of training.

There are appropriate systems in place to keep the young people and adults safe from the risk of fire and other potential hazards. For example, staff carry out a range of risk assessments and there are suitable arrangements for carrying out regular checks of equipment such as electrical appliances. There are also regular checks of the home’s fire safety equipment and regular fire drills. Staff have also taken part in fire safety training.

The home has not recruited any new staff since the last key inspection. There are good arrangements for checking any agency staff that work shifts at the home. The arrangements for monitoring and managing visitors to the home are satisfactory and help ensure they do not have inappropriate access to 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 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.