

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC030713
Inspection date	15 December 2009
Inspector	John Chivers
Type of Inspection	Random

Date of last inspection	3 June 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 a Resource Centre for children with disabilities and their families, which is owned and managed by the local district council. One of the services offered at the centre is residential respite care for children with a disability. It is this aspect of the centre's activity that is regulated under the Children's Homes Regulations 2001. The centre is registered for five young people between eight and 18 years who have a learning and/or physical disability; many of the children also present challenging behaviour. Other services offered include day care, after school care and outreach services.

The home is a two storey detached house. It has its own minibus to enable good transport links with neighbouring towns and local facilities. There are five bedrooms on the first floor and several communal areas including a lounge, dining area, sensory room and large garden to the rear of the property. There is a lift to provide access to the ground and first floor. All local amenities are within easy reach of the home. The home has a guide for parents and also its own children's guide. In addition a DVD that enables the young people to see all the facilities the centre provides has been developed. The home welcomes prospective service users and/or their representatives to view the premises and discuss their needs with the manager.

Summary

The inspection was an interim inspection and unannounced. The section staying safe of the national minimum standards for children's homes was assessed. The sections being healthy, enjoying and achieving, positive contribution, economic wellbeing and organisation were not inspected on this occasion. The one recommendation set at the last inspection has now been met in full and no actions or recommendations are made as a result of this inspection. The home continues to be organised and managed to a high standard and affords an equal standard of care and support to the resident children, having full regard for equality and diversity issues throughout its operation.

The overall quality rating is outstanding.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the registered manager was asked to ensure that staff sign and date restraint records in all cases. This has now been addressed and such records are signed and dated in all cases and shows full compliance with the Children's Homes Regulations 2001 and the national minimum standards for children's homes.

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is not judged.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

The home has comprehensive policies and procedures regarding privacy and confidentiality of which all staff are aware. There is adequate private space in the home where children can meet in private with their parents and significant others. Confidential records are kept secure in locked cabinets and drawers within locked offices and staff are aware of the importance and

need for confidentiality. A telephone is available for children's use without reference to staff and children are able to lock their bedroom doors if they wish to do so. Toilet and bathing facilities afford good privacy and children have their personal and intimate care needs met with dignity and sensitivity.

The home's complaint procedure is available and a simplified pictorial version is available for the children. Staff are due to receive refresher training in the area of complaints in the new year. The home's complaints book shows that any complaints are investigated thoroughly, record action taken and have an outcome. No complaints or concerns have been received by Ofsted regarding the service.

The home has a child protection policy and procedure and also has access to the borough council multi agency safeguarding procedures. Staff receive training in child protection and the safeguarding of children with disabilities. Children learn about aspects of their personal safety via their individual school's curriculum and this is reinforced by care staff at the home. In addition personal safety is covered by the 'focus' group which some children attend. The manager said there are no current or ongoing child protection or safeguarding issues at the home.

There is a detailed policy and procedure regarding anti bullying and a pictorial version of the procedure is held for the children. Bullying or intimidating behaviour among the children is not an issue in the home.

The home has a missing persons policy and procedure and a joint protocol regarding missing persons between the police and the local borough council. Records show there have been no unauthorised absences from the home.

The home has a behaviour management and positive handling policy and procedure which includes guidance on the use of physical interventions and lists permitted and non permitted sanctions. Staff have very good working relationships with the children and their behaviour is well managed with much interaction and engagement evident. Children respond positively to this approach. Children behaviour is monitored and recorded in care plans and other documentation. The home follows a recognised system of behaviour management in which all staff receive regular training. Three of the home's staff are qualified behaviour management trainers. Sanctions and physical interventions are clearly recorded with only permitted sanctions used and physical interventions appearing necessary and appropriate in the circumstances described in the records, though a number of these are 'escorts' rather than restraint episodes. The sanctions and physical intervention records cross reference with the completed incident forms which the home also uses.

The home has a health and safety policy statement and the employers health and safety law poster is displayed. There is a current fire risk assessment and fire evacuation drill and fire alarm tests occur on a regular basis. Emergency lighting and fire fighting equipment is also serviced regularly. All staff are trained in fire awareness and health and safety training is scheduled for the new year. The home has current utility safety test certificates and a range of generic risk assessments which are reviewed and updated annually. Standards of cleanliness and hygiene are high throughout the home and no safety hazards are evident in the areas of the premises accessed. The home takes positive steps to keep children, staff and visitors safe from the inherent risks of fire and other potential safety hazards.

The home has a staff recruitment policy and procedure and also policies covering equal opportunities and valuing equality and diversity. Staff recruitment and vetting procedures are robust and sound and hold all required information including two written references with evidence of verification and checks via the Criminal Records Bureau at enhanced level. The home's arrangements in this area helps to ensure that only suitable staff are employed to look after the children.

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.