

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	4 January 2010
Inspector	Muhammed Harunur Rashid
Type of Inspection	Random

Date of last inspection	14 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 a purpose built complex run by a registered charity in partnership with a local authority. The home provides short stay services to children and young people who have high support needs between the ages of five and under 18-years-old. The home is split into two units; it provides services for up to 12 children at any one time. The home is situated in an urban area, within easy access of local transport links and health and leisure facilities. As a respite unit, different numbers of children and young people stay at the home on different days.

Summary

This interim, unannounced inspection looked at the progress the service has achieved with the recommendations made at the last inspection dated 14 August 2009. The outcome areas of being healthy, enjoying and achieving, positive contribution and economic wellbeing were not assessed in this inspection.

Children and young people live in a safe environment. Their confidentiality is promoted. The Registered Manager reviews staffing levels in accordance with the needs of children and young people. Staff receive regular supervision and annual appraisals from their line manager.

One action and one recommendation have been raised as a result of this inspection link to ensuring that the annual gas safety inspection is conducted and staff complete their National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) at level 3 in Looking After Children and Young People.

The overall quality rating is good.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

At the previous inspection the Registered Manager was asked to ensure that monthly reports on each child are completed and a minimum ratio of 80% of all care staff complete their NVQ level 3 training. The service has met one recommendation and continues working towards ensuring that a minimum ratio of 80% of all care staff complete their NVQ at level 3 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 service has an appropriate confidentiality policy and staff adhere to this. Children and young people are provided with single bedroom accommodation and a sufficient number of bathrooms and toilets. Information regarding children and young people and staff is stored safely.

An appropriate complaint policy and procedure is in place. Staff maintain a complaints log book. Complaints are appropriately recorded and managed according to the home's procedures.

Young people are safeguarded through staff's knowledge and understanding of safeguarding and anti-bullying issues and through robust procedures in place which are followed by staff.

It is unlikely that a child will go missing from care due to the high levels of supervision in place. However, the home has an appropriate policy in place for dealing with unauthorised absence from care.

Staff are provided with guidance and training to improve children and young people's socially acceptable behaviour. Children and young people's socially acceptable behaviour is appropriately rewarded. There are agreed measures by which to deal with unacceptable behaviour, such as the use of appropriate forms of sanctions. Staff have a good knowledge of safeguarding issues and training in the use of restraint is provided.

Staff have attended health and safety training. They take appropriate steps to keep children, young people, visitors and themselves safe from risk of fire and other hazards. A risk assessment of the premises is in place. Staff carry out regular fire alarm testing and fire drills. A current electric test certificates is available for inspection. However, a valid gas inspection certification was not available.

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 good.

Staffing levels are kept under review to ensure that the appropriate levels are maintained. Children and young people are well looked after by staff members who are committed to their work. Children and young people live in a caring environment. The home works in partnership with a local authority. Children and young people have access to the local authority services.

All staff receive regular supervision and annual appraisals from their line manager. Weekly staff meetings are held and staff have opportunities to contribute to the meetings. Staff attend various in-house and external training to promote their professional development. Staff spoken to were satisfied with the training they are receiving.

A sufficient numbers of staff have not completed their NVQ at level 3 in looking after children and young people yet. The service is working towards this. The deputy manager advised the inspector that currently five members of staff are undertaking this training and nine others are on waiting list.

Regulation 33 visits take place on each month. There are systems in place to monitor the performance of the home against the statement of purpose.

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
26	ensure that gas appliance's inspection is carried out annually. (Regulation 31)	31 January 2010

Recommendations

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

- ensure that a minimum ratio of 80% of all care staff complete their NVQ at level 3 in Looking After Children and Young People. (NMS 29)