

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC062079
Inspection date	8 March 2010
Inspector	Lucy Ansell
Type of Inspection	Random

Date of last inspection	7 December 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 home forms part of the services provided by the Children's Trust. The Children's Trust provides holistic services for children with multiple disabilities and complex health needs.

The school provides 52 week placements for pupils and is therefore registered as a children's home. This is in addition to being registered with the Department for Children, Schools and Families as a non-maintained school for children with profound and multiple learning difficulties with an age range between five to under 18 years.

The school has 44 educational placements. The registered children's home accommodates 33 pupils, in single or twin bedrooms. The boarding accommodation comprises a separate two storey purpose-built house for children up to the age of 16 years and a refurbished unit for young people over 16 years of age. Each house accommodates 11 pupils.

Summary

This was an interim inspection focused on the outcome group staying safe. This is an outstanding service in all outcome groups. The home's arrangements actively promote children's safety, protection and wellbeing. Young people's welfare is enhanced by the provision of well-trained staff who are professional and committed. The home works with a range of professionals in order to meet the young people's needs comprehensively. One recommendation was made to ensure clarity in the new safeguarding policy by separating the document so that each part of the organisation has its own policy.

The overall quality rating is outstanding.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

There were no actions or recommendations arising from 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 outstanding.

Young people's privacy is respected and confidential information is appropriately stored and shared. All the young people are enabled to raise complaints or concerns which is appropriate to their understanding. Staff are able to understand and take action on non verbal cues from the young people that they are unhappy. One complaint has been received since the last inspection; this was dealt with in a timely and considered manner.

Clear procedures and systems that are in line with the Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures are used effectively by staff to ensure the young people are kept safe. All staff are trained in safeguarding, and care staff have a good understanding of their roles and responsibilities in keeping children safe. The safeguarding policy has been recently updated and contains all the required information; however, it is not a separate document to the other services within the organisation.

Appropriate policies and procedures are in place for dealing with bullying; however, bullying is not an issue as the young people mainly have one to one care and lack independence of self. Policies and procedures are in place for unauthorised absences; again the children in the home have profound disabilities, and have very limited mobility.

A strength of the houses is their behaviour management; all of the young people have complex needs and behaviours which are managed extremely well. Multi disciplinary meetings are held regularly to ensure comprehensive protocols are in place which sensitively deal with behaviours; and comprehensive monitoring is used to effect change and provide evidence to external practitioners. Sanctions are not used as they are inappropriate due to profound disabilities of young people. Any equipment or restraints used are necessary and agreed for therapeutic reasons, all staff are trained in handling techniques.

Positive steps are taken to keep young people and staff in the homes safe through regular review and update of environmental and fire risk assessments. Health and safety around the school is well managed. Young people are protected by excellent staff recruitment and selection procedures, which exceed the required standards.

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 outstanding.

The registered manager contested actions made at a previous inspection on 27/03/2009, regarding the restriction of a young person's liberty. This was on the grounds that using a lock on a young person's bedroom door is for the purposes of ensuring the young person and other young people are safeguarded. The intention is not to restrict liberty. Ofsted reviewed the information and issued guidance on restricting liberty to refer to. The outcome of this was shared with the manager of the home. As a result, the decision is the home works in the best interests of the young person, liberty is not restricted and the use of a bedroom door lock is a means of safeguarding all young people in the home.

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

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

- ensure the safeguarding policy is a separate document for the different services within the organisation (NMS 17.3)