

Inspection report for children's home

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| Unique reference number | SC047894 |
| Inspection date | 30 March 2010 |
| Inspector | Jane Rushby |
| Type of Inspection | Random |

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| Date of last inspection | 11 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

The home provides care and accommodation for up to three young people with emotional and behavioural difficulties, aged 11 to up to 17 years of age and is situated on the edge of a village in a rural area. The accommodation includes a lounge, a kitchen, a separate education room and three single bedrooms for the young people. The home is four miles from the nearest town, public transport and local amenities. There is a village shop, bus stop and post office within walking distance of the home.

Education is provided through the home's independent school and local education authority provision which conforms as far as practicable to the requirements of the National Curriculum and is inspected by Ofsted.

Summary

At this unannounced interim inspection, all key standards in staying safe were inspected. The other outcomes had all been judged as good or outstanding at the previous key inspection in August 2009. This is a good service with outstanding features. Young people benefit from robust organisation and caring staff who effectively promote their welfare and keep them safe. Young people are enabled to evaluate their own behaviour and are included in a range of strategies which promote positive improvements. There are no actions or recommendations arising from this inspection. Two young people currently live at the home, both were present and participated in the inspection.

The overall quality rating is good.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

The registered person was asked to address a number of shortfalls following the previous visit. The actions and recommendations have been carried out and have been commented on under staying safe and economic wellbeing.

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 information is confidentially handled. Young people's records are securely stored in the office. A young person said 'they don't come in our rooms without permission'. Where room searches are carried out young people are informed of the reasons and supported within the process.

Young people benefit from a comprehensive response to complaints to the home. One said 'I know how to complain, they listen to me'. There have been two complaints received since the previous visit, one of which was withdrawn following discussion with the young person and one was fully investigated and the complainant informed of the outcome.

Young people benefit from comprehensive arrangements in place to keep them safe. One said 'they look after me here and care about me'. Young people feel bullying would be addressed by staff however did not raise any concerns about bullying behaviour. Staff know the young people well, have a thorough understanding of the dynamics in relationships and any potential for bullying is addressed with all parties. New staff are trained in safeguarding procedures during induction and staff know how to respond appropriately to allegations or disclosures of abuse. Young people who are vulnerable as a result of going missing are protected by robust practice and effective liaison with appropriate agencies. On their return from running away, young people are very well supported to evaluate the reasons for going missing and to identify alternative and safer responses.

Young people benefit from clear and consistent expectations of behaviour, and feel expectations are fair. They respond well to arrangements which reward positive behaviour, including the use of a gold book where rewards given for specific positive actions are recorded. Sanctions and physical interventions are used appropriately and the acting manager is vigilant about evaluating the records to establish any trends and patterns. A young person said 'I'm held when its necessary, its fair'. Records are extremely well organised and clear. Logs are completed thoroughly and cross reference accurately with other documentation. Staff view the young people very positively and work hard to enable them to develop alternative and positive behaviours.

Young people are protected by sound health and safety procedures which are monitored regularly through the Regulation 33 and 34 processes. An action arising from the previous visit which required the registered person to provide clear guidance to all staff and children on admission on what to do in the case of a fire has been carried out in full. Young people have been involved in producing a poster which identifies escape routes from their own bedrooms. This activity has positively engaged the young people in developing responsibility for their own safety. Young people are familiar with evacuation procedures. An excellent risk assessment process is in place for individual young people and specific activities and staff are aware of the risks arising from the needs and behaviour of the young people. Risk assessments are monitored and updated to reflect the current needs of young people.

Visitors to the home are vetted to ensure the safety of young people. Young people are protected by an effective staff recruitment process. An action following the previous visit requiring that details be recorded of any gaps in staff employment histories has been carried out.

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.

At the previous visit the responsible person was asked to maintain the premises to a good standard, which related to several issues including dampness and installation of required fixtures and fittings. This work has been fully carried out as part of a programme of renovation which

includes building an extension to increase the existing communal space downstairs and installing a new bedroom upstairs. The renovation work is ongoing. The responsible person was also asked to provide appropriate privacy measures in bedrooms, bathrooms and toilet windows for young people. This has also been carried out in full.

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.