

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspector	Bill Drumm
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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 children's home provides short break care for up to six young people of either sex aged from eight years to 17 years of age with physical or learning disabilities.

The home is a detached property standing in its own grounds. It is situated a short distance from a range of local amenities. Young people have access to an outdoor play area, shared lounge, study area and dining room. There is a new sound and light room. Each young person has their own bedroom and access to bathrooms with a range of additional adaptations to ensure that their individual needs can be met.

The home provides short breaks for up to forty seven young people throughout the year. At the time of the inspection one young person was present at the home who contributed to the inspection process.

Summary

This was an unannounced interim inspection of the home. The outcomes for young people in the area of being healthy, staying safe, economic wellbeing and organisation were inspected and found to be good. Three recommendations were made at the previous inspection, two of which have been met. Young people who are old enough still do not have comprehensive transition plans in place to support their transition into adulthood. Young people receive a very high level of help and support from a committed staff team. Care planning arrangements are good. Young people are consulted about the care they receive and parents are fully involved in this process. However, some members of the staff team have not received refresher training in the complaints process and countering bullying. The home's records are maintained to a good standard and all information relating to young people is kept safe and secure. The home is well managed and overall the outcomes for young people are good.

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The overall quality rating is good.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

Since the last inspection the manager of the home has reviewed and updated the policies and procedures for the safe handling and administration of medication. In addition, the home's Statement of Purpose has also been updated.

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Young people living at the home are fully protected by the home's medication administration systems. The home's manager has improved the policies and procedures for the safe handling and administration of medication and all members of staff have attended appropriate training. The health needs of young people are met and their welfare is safeguarded.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Personal information relating to each young person is stored safely and securely and members of staff working at the home are acutely aware of the need to maintain confidentiality. Personal care is provided discreetly and privately to those young people who are unable to independently manage their own care needs. Each young person who lives at the home has their own bedroom and there are sufficient, fully adapted toilets and bathrooms to meet the needs of the young people who live at the home. The home has policies and procedures in place, which explain what action members of staff should take when it is necessary to search a young person's bedroom. No room searches have ever been carried out at the home. This means the privacy and dignity of young people are promoted and maintained and that young people are treated with the utmost dignity and respect.

The home has policies and procedures in place for dealing with complaints thoroughly and effectively. The young people's guide to the home is available in a number of different formats and provides very clear detailed information to young people about who they can contact if they are unhappy about anything. The young people's guide is very easy to understand and is written in plain English. The young people's guide is a well-produced document. However, not all members of the staff team have received training in the home's complaints process. There have been no complaints made at the home since the last inspection, although eight compliments have been received.

Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures are available in the home and all members of staff have received training in child protection and safeguarding. There have been no child protection referrals made since the last inspection. Young people living at the home are fully protected from exploitation or abuse.

The home has up-to-date policies and procedures to help staff counter bullying. Each young person who lives at the home has a thorough and up-to-date risk assessment. There have been no incidents of bullying since the last inspection and young people are fully protected from bullying. Not all members of staff working at the home have received training in countering bullying. Young people may not therefore be fully protected from bullying.

There have been no occasions since the last inspection when a young person has been absent without authority. Members of staff provide exceptionally high levels of care and supervision to young people, which helps to keep them safe and well.

The home has policies and procedures for the safe holding and restraint of young people. Members of staff have all received training in safe holding techniques. Restraint records are maintained within a separate bound and numbered book used specifically for that purpose. There has been one restraint used on a young person since the last inspection. Written records have been fully completed and are reviewed monthly by someone who does not work at the home. Sanctions records are also maintained. A small number of sanctions have been imposed on young people because of their behaviour since the last inspection. Members of staff respond positively to young people, who are encouraged and supported to develop socially acceptable behaviour.

All visitors to the home are asked to identify themselves and to sign the visitors' book prior to being given entry to the building. Regular fire drills are undertaken at the home and young people are fully involved in this process.

There has been one new appointment to the staff team at the home since the last inspection. Members of staff working at the home provide a consistently high quality of care and service to the young people living there. Staff files retained within the home are well ordered and include information about each staff member. Young people living at the home are provided with physical safety and security.

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.

The home's manager and members of staff work hard to encourage and support young people to learn independence skills and activities for daily living. Individual help and support is given in line with each young person's specific needs and level of understanding. However, those young people who are old enough do not have formal transition plans in place to aid their transition into adulthood. Young people may not therefore receive the appropriate help and support they need to prepare them for adult life.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The Statement of Purpose has recently been reviewed and describes what services young people can expect from living at the home. The staff profile accurately reflects the high level of skill and competency they have developed in caring for young people with a disability. In addition, the Statement of Purpose accurately describes any electronic or surveillance methods used within the home to help keep young people safe and free from harm.

Young people are looked after by staff who are generally well trained and competent to meet their needs. Training is provided at frequent intervals, to ensure staff have the necessary skills and ability, to meet the diverse and changing needs of the young people living at the home and a record of all training received by members of staff is maintained within the home. However, not all members of staff have received training in the home's complaints process or countering bullying. Young people may not therefore be fully protected from bullying and members of staff may not react appropriately if a young person says they are unhappy about something.

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 Children's 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 that each young person who is old enough, has a comprehensive plan in place to enable a successful transition into adulthood (NMS 6.1)
- ensure all members of staff receive training that equips them with the skills required to meet the needs of the young people living at the home. (NMS 31.1)