

Inspection report for Children's Home

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Inspection date	17/11/2010
Inspector	Stella Henderson
Type of inspection	Random

Date of last inspection	26/05/2010
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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 outcomes for children set out in the Children Act 2004 and the relevant National Minimum Standards for the service.

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 local authority home provides a short-breaks service for children and young people who are between the ages of eight and 17 years and who have a permanent and substantial disability.

The home is a purpose built bungalow, with facilities that are appropriate to meet the needs of the young people who use the service. There are four large single bedrooms and two bathrooms with adaptations. A tracking system enables the safe movement of the young people from bedroom to bathroom. There is a lounge, sensory room, separate utility room, dining room and kitchen. The kitchen is designed with a rise and fall worktop, which allows for wheelchair users.

To the rear of the property is an enclosed secure garden with play equipment and a sensory area. There is car parking to the front of the home. The train station, shops, amenities and park are all within walking distance.

Attached to the bungalow is a flat, which can provide emergency accommodation for one young person. This element of the provision is for a maximum period of 48 hours and when in use has its own dedicated staff team.

No young people were present at the time of this inspection.

Summary

The overall quality rating is outstanding.

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

This purpose of this visit was to undertake an unannounced interim inspection. The outcome area for staying safe was assessed on this occasion.

This home was judged to be outstanding overall at the last full inspection. Evidence from this inspection demonstrates that this home continues to provide excellent standards of care for young people.

The home maintains its rigorous application of a range of safeguarding measures to ensure that young people's health, safety and well-being is consistently maintained and promoted.

Improvements since the last inspection

No recommendations or requirements were made at 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.

The home's systems for protecting young people are highly effective. All staff are trained in the recognition of and response to any child protection issues and they have an excellent understanding of their responsibilities.

Young people's privacy is properly respected and bullying is not an issue in the home. Excellent levels of supervision mean that young people are unlikely to go missing from the home, but there is a procedure in place to manage such incidents should they occur.

A robust complaints procedure is in place, although excellent relationships with parents ensure that any concerns are responded to at an early stage. Similarly there is close liaison with parents and other professionals on the best way to manage young people's behaviour. This is done in a way which takes young people's individual needs, understanding and abilities into account.

The physical safety of young people is paramount. Routine checks on equipment are made, as well as regular fire evacuation procedures. There are a range of risk assessments on individual young people and on hazards within the home, the action plans of which are effectively implemented and reviewed.

Personnel records were not inspected on this occasion. Previous inspections confirm the provider ensures that only those deemed suitable to work with vulnerable young people are employed at the home.

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.