

Inspection report for Children's Home

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Date of last inspection

09/07/2010

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You can obtain copies of The Children Act 2004, Every Child Matters and The National Minimum Standards for Children's Services from: The Stationery Office (TSO) PO Box 29, St Crispins, Duke Street, Norwich, NR3 1GN. Tel: 0870 600 5522. Online ordering: www.tso.co.uk/bookshop

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 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 and young people 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

The overall quality rating is good.

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

This was an unannounced interim inspection which looked at the outcome area of staying safe. It also looked at the progress the service has achieved with the recommendation made at the last inspection. Being healthy, enjoying and achieving, positive contribution, economic wellbeing and organisation were not assessed in this inspection. No shortfalls have been identified as a result of this interim inspection

Improvements since the last inspection

The service was asked to ensure that the restraint log book's pages are numbered and each record is signed by a person authorised to make this record. The service has acted upon this recommendation.

This step helps to promote the welfare of children and young people.

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.

Children and young people live in a stable and safe environment. They are provided with single-bedroom accommodation and a sufficient number of bathrooms and toilets. Information regarding children, young people and staff is kept in a locked cabinet. Staff are sensitive to gender issues when dealing with children and young people of the opposite sex.

An appropriate complaint policy and procedure is in place and the procedure is made accessible by being displayed in the home. However, the home has not received any complaints since the last inspection.

A comprehensive safeguarding policy and procedure is in place which provides guidance for staff to protect children and young people. Staff have attended safeguarding training and have awareness of safeguarding issues. The home has an anti-bullying policy. Staff have sound knowledge and skills to deal with bullying if it is suspected.

It is unlikely that a child or a young person 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.

There is a system in place to notify appropriate authorities including Ofsted of the occurrence of significant events.

Staff are provided with training and guidance on how to work with children and young people who have challenging behaviour. The home imposes sanctions for children and young people's unacceptable behaviour, applying restraint as a last resort. Staff maintain records of all sanctions and restraint that take place. The restraint log book's pages are numbered and each record is signed off by a person authorised to make the record.

Staff have attended health and safety training. They take appropriate steps to keep children, young people, visitors and themselves safe from the risk of fire and other hazards. A risk assessment of the premises is in place which is reviewed recently. Staff carry out regular fire alarm testing and fire drills. Current gas and electric test certificates are available.

The home has a thorough recruitment policy and procedure in place to protect children and young people. However, the home has not recruited any staff recently.

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.