

Inspection report for Children's Home

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Inspector	Diane Thackrah
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Date of last inspection	26/08/2010
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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

The home provides accommodation for six children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities between the ages of eight years and 17 years. The home is a domestic sized house that has been converted for its purpose. The registered provider is also the manager. The home is situated within walking distance of the town centre and has easy access to public transport.

The home has the necessary equipment to support young people with a physical disability. There are six single rooms, a lounge/dining room, a sensory room and a kitchen. The home provides a Statement of Purpose and a children's guide with information about the facilities and services provided. Prospective children and their representatives are welcome to view the premises and discuss their needs with the manager. There is a fee range which depends on individual children's needs.

Two young people were present during this inspection and observations of their interactions with staff occurred in order to inform this inspection.

Summary

The overall quality rating is good.

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

At this unannounced, interim inspection, all national minimum standards under the outcome area staying safe were assessed. One recommendation was made at the last inspection of the service and the action taken by the registered provider in response to this was also assessed.

This is a good service. There are policies and procedures which help to ensure that young people are safe and have their welfare promoted. These include ensuring that there are sound relationships between staff and young people and positive behaviour management. Young people are respected and have their dignity upheld. Staff ensure that young people live in a safe environment by carrying out regular safety checks within the home. The strong fire safety arrangements and robust staff recruitment practices ensure that young people are protected from harm.

Improvements since the last inspection

The registered provider was asked to ensure the home has a current annual development plan. While it is evident that systems are in place for developing the business to improve outcomes for young people, this has not been formalised in a written plan. This, therefore, does not fully promote young people's welfare.

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.

Staff help to keep young people safe. They respect young people's privacy and uphold their dignity. Records are held securely in order to maintain information about young people confidentially. Young people have use of a portable telephone which they can use in private should they wish to. Details about providing sensitive personal care are recorded clearly in care plans and this information is made available to staff members. The issues of dignity, respect and confidentiality are also covered during staff induction which helps to ensure that young people's dignity is upheld. Complaints are taken seriously and information about how to make a complaint is easily available and this helps to ensure that the concerns of young people and stakeholders are well addressed. Young people are protected through the home's policies and procedures in relation to child protection. These ensure that all staff members are trained in child protection.

Bullying is not reported to be an issue in this home. There is close staff monitoring of young people and this helps to ensure that no bullying occurs. Staff are clear that any bullying will be challenged and stopped. It is not common for young people to go missing from this home. Staff have the information they need to help ensure the safe return of young people should they go missing. Behaviour management is strong and helps to promote young people's well-being. Restraint is used rarely, and only as a last resort. All of the staff team have been trained to use safe restraint techniques in order to protect young people. Sanctions are not used in this home. Staff work closely as a team in order to respond positively to young people's needs and behaviours. Clear needs assessments, risk assessments and care plans are in place which help to ensure that staff clearly understand young people's behaviour. Training for staff members in a variety of areas also helps them to respond positively to young people's needs and to promote their welfare.

There are generally good arrangements for ensuring that young people live in a safe environment. These include staff training in areas such as food hygiene, health and safety, moving and handling and fire safety. Good fire safety practices help to protect young people. These include regular checks on the fire safety equipment and regular fire drills. Hoists are regularly checked for safety and there are systems for monitoring the temperature of water that is accessible to young people. There are systems in place for protecting young people from exposure to potentially harmful cleaning products such as safe storage provision and training for staff, however, some cleaning products are not always stored securely and this does not fully promote young people's welfare.

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.

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/s meets the Care Standards Act 2000, Children's Homes Regulations 2001 and the National Minimum Standards. The Registered Provider(s) must comply with the given timescales.

Std.	Action	Due date
26	ensure that all parts of the home that young people have access to are so far as reasonably practicable free from hazards to their safety, including the storage of cleaning products in unlocked cupboards. (Regulation 23 (a)).	01/03/2011