

Inspection report for Children's Home

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Inspector	Jackie Graves
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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 care and accommodation for up to three young people with emotional and behavioural difficulties, aged 11 up to 17 years-of-age and is situated on the edge of a village in a rural area. The accommodation includes a lounge, 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.

Two young people currently live at the home and both participated in the inspection.

Summary

The overall quality rating is outstanding.

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

This unannounced, interim inspection looked at all the key standards under staying safe. Individual outcome judgements, as well as the overall quality rating, were not reviewed on this occasion.

Young people's behaviour is managed consistently and positively. Staff help them to make progress and reward their achievements. There are appropriate levels of privacy. Fire safety is taken very seriously to promote a safe premises. There is an accessible complaints procedure. Young people are encouraged to make suggestions about how to improve the service.

Improvements since the last inspection

No actions or recommendations were made at the last key inspection so this section is not relevant.

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 feel the staff protect them and keep them safe. Staff receive training in child protection. Further training is provided in response to young people's emerging needs, for example, in self-harm, so that staff are equipped with the skills and knowledge they need to keep young people safe. A clear complaints procedure encourages young people to raise any concerns they may have. However, few complaints are made and there has been none since the last inspection. Young people do make suggestions on how the service could be improved and the home responds positively to these where possible.

There are suitable levels of privacy in the home, for example, when young people are in their rooms or using the bathroom. There is respect for sensitive information held on behalf of young people which is appropriately stored. If young people request access to their files, staff will support their right to this information where appropriate.

Good systems for dealing with bullying ensure that staff remain vigilant and respond swiftly to any incidents. Young people may be confident that staff take bullying seriously and recognise the impact this can have on people.

Close staff supervision protects young people who might otherwise place themselves in dangerous situations by going absent from the home without permission. Young people are reassured by a staff presence at all times whenever they leave the home. The rural location also helps prevent unauthorised absences as young people say there is 'nowhere to run to.'

A consistent staff team form warm, supportive relationships with the young people and this is central to effective behaviour management. Detailed behaviour management plans for each young person ensure that staff have clear information about boundaries and expectations. There is a real emphasis on positive behaviour management, with praise and rewards to acknowledge young people's progress. The rewards are well regarded by young people and something they strive to achieve. Those sanctions used are appropriate and fair. Staff are provided with suitable training to equip them with techniques to manage behaviour effectively. Restraint is used as a last resort. Incidents and behaviour are effectively monitored by management in order to look for patterns and trends and ensure the overall safety of young people.

A very thorough approach to fire safety ensures both staff and young people know what to do in an emergency. This includes providing fire safety induction, conducting regular checks of fire systems and equipment and ensuring participation in fire drills.

A robust, recruitment system ensures that staff are thoroughly checked before they start work in 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.