

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC040175
Inspection date	15 December 2009
Inspector	Jackie Graves
Type of Inspection	Random

Date of last inspection	1 July 2009
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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 home is situated close to local amenities, shops, a leisure centre and transport links. The home can accommodate eight children with physical and learning disabilities, between the ages of 10 and 18. There is a garden with wheelchair access to the ground floor of the building. There is a lift to the first floor but this floor is not fully accessible to people using wheelchairs.

The children are accommodated in single bedrooms and have access to a lounge, dining room and external playroom. Some parking is available to the rear of the building. Seven young people were at home for part of the inspection.

Summary

This unannounced interim inspection looked at key standards under the staying safe outcome, plus the key standard concerning food under the being healthy outcome. Additionally, the home's response to the one recommendation made at the last inspection was also assessed.

The home continues to provide a good service to young people and their families. The home is well led, well managed and committed to achieving good outcomes for young people.

The protection of young people is given a high priority. There are clear complaints and safeguarding procedures and bullying is not an issue in the home. Staffing ratios are high to ensure the close supervision of young people. Considerable improvements to young people's behaviour have been achieved. Young people are fully involved in fire safety and this is well promoted within the home.

One recommendation is made as a result of this inspection around checking the temperature of food when it is served.

The overall quality rating is good.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

The home now makes sure that all staff understand and take into account the reasons for young people's challenging behaviour and respond accordingly.

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Meals are well organised, social occasions, with staff and young people sitting around tables to eat and talk. Young people are encouraged to make healthy food choices, for example, by selecting fruit for snacks and limiting the amount of sweets eaten. Some residents help to prepare meals with staff and assist with shopping, laying tables or clearing away after meals, which develops their independence skills and their confidence.

Young people contribute to menu planning and are given opportunities to try foods from differing cultures. Staff give careful consideration to any individual dietary needs, such as weight control or the influence of certain foods on behaviour. The temperature of food served to some young people is not always checked.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The home is proactive in protecting children from the risk of fire. Checks of fire systems and equipment are robust, which contributes to the safety of the premises. Regular drills involve all the young people so they know how to respond when the alarm sounds and safe evacuation of the building has become routine to them.

Arrangements for protecting young people are sound. Staff respect young people's privacy and dignity. Residents benefit from having their own bedrooms where they can receive discreet personal care when required. Their privacy is respected when using bathrooms. Staff recognise the vulnerability of young people and staffing ratios are high to ensure their close supervision.

The complaints policy is made clear to all people using the service. The manager welcomes any comments or concerns and responds promptly to these to ensure people remain happy with the service. There are many opportunities for young people to raise any concerns or complaints, such as in meetings or key work sessions. The manager has an 'open door' policy and encourages young people to talk about all aspects of their lives to him.

Staff receive training in how to keep young people safe and there have been no allegations or referrals of a child protection nature. Staff make sure young people use the internet safely through careful supervision. The home was found to have a robust process of staff recruitment at the last full inspection so this standard has not been examined on this occasion.

Bullying is not an issue in the home. It is made clear that bullying is unacceptable in any form. Clear policies in suitable formats reinforce this message to young people. Any behaviour which may be construed as such is challenged in ways appropriate to young peoples' understanding.

Considerable progress is made in helping some young people learn to manage aspects of their behaviour, which promotes their safety and wellbeing. Staff look carefully at differing triggers for young people's behaviour, such as change to routines, tiredness and the effect of some foods on them. They support young people to make choices in how they respond to such triggers to encourage increasing self-control.

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 meets the Care Standards Act 2000, The Childrens 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 the temperature of food is checked for those young people unable to check it themselves. (NMS 10)