

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	6 November 2009
Inspector	Michelle Moss
Type of Inspection	Random

Date of last inspection	8 June 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 provides specialised care for up to six children, aged eight years old up to 12 years old on admission. The registration of the home allows children with emotional and behavioural difficulties and learning and physical disabilities to be cared for. However, the focus of attention is on providing care and support for children with emotional and behavioural difficulties.

The house is a detached property set in its own grounds. It is spacious and well equipped. There is a large family kitchen-diner, lounge, play room and separate computer room. Each of the children have a single bedroom and have access to an adequate number of bath and shower rooms. The location of the home provides good access to a range of community resources. The home has two family cars to facilitate community involvement.

At the time of the visit, four children were resident at the home of which one child was met.

Summary

This was interim inspection that has looked at the progress the home has made in regards to two recommendations raised at the last full inspection. Also, staying safe has been re-inspected to reassess outcomes for children. The home has addressed the previously identified shortfalls and in doing so, enhanced the health and welfare of children. However, there is one new shortfall in recording that requires further improvement. This relates to discipline and restraint records needing to be more transparent to show children's rights are not compromised.

The overall quality rating is good.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

Improvements in the recording of training undertaken by staff is helping to validate their range of skills and qualifications in their care of children. This includes receiving training in safeguarding, first aid and care and control. Another area of improvement, has been the introduction of checks completed on hot water temperatures. This additional safety check is helping safeguard children, by reducing the risks associated with hot water including potential scalding.

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 live in a home that provides them with good standards of physical safety and security. This extends to having a comprehensive health and safety auditing system, whereby aspects of fire, electrical and water safety are frequently checked. Areas of privacy are respected including staff being familiar with the safeguards required in confidential management of children's personal data. A strong emphasis is placed on children's welfare. This includes having strong links with clinical practitioners and having established procedures that are understood by staff.

The staff continue to receive behaviour management training that focuses on a therapeutic support model of care. Conflict resolution is applied to help achieve realistic outcomes for children. This includes working in partnership with specialist services to gain greater insight into understanding the behavioural traits displayed by children and how to avoid them escalating. Some of the necessary preventative measures involve the use of physical intervention and sanctions, of which records are made. However, the depth of recording is sometimes misleading. For example, when a restraint has been used, it is not always clear over the immediate risk of harm to the child or others to justify its use. Also, recordings are not always capturing the feelings and views of children, to enable them to have their views formally acknowledged and their rights enhanced.

Children continue to be protected through the home's monitoring of visitors and the careful selection and vetting of all staff. Also, children have access to an effective complaint's procedure that they can use to raise concerns or worries with the knowledge they will be addressed.

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 Children's 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):

- make sure all children are given an opportunity to express their feelings and views within a reasonable time frame following a sanction or restraint. These feelings should be recorded wherever possible in the records kept by the home (NMS 22.14)
- make sure the records made for both sanctions and restraints are sufficiently detailed to validate the measure used. This should include what the immediate risks were to justify the control measure used.(NMS 22.6,7,9)