

Inspection report for Children's Home

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Inspector	Jacqueline Dunster
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Date of last inspection	28/10/2009
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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

The home is a converted farm house in a rural community. It is within reasonable travelling distance from educational and leisure facilities.

The home offers services and care for up to four children and young people from 11 to 16 years of age. The young people present behavioural difficulties due to past trauma.

Three young people were present in the home during the inspection.

Summary

The overall quality rating is outstanding.

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

During this unannounced inspection national minimum standards relating to protecting young people from harm or neglect and helping them to stay safe were inspected.

Staff provide young people with outstanding support to develop skills to keep themselves safe in the home and in the wider community. They encourage young people to develop respect for themselves and for others. This creates an environment where young people can experience security and feel safe enough to address their own individual issues.

Improvements since the last inspection

No requirements or recommendations were raised following the last inspection of the home.

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.

Staff support young people to live safely in the home and the wider community. This is achieved because staff understand procedures designed to protect young people

and implement them effectively. Each young person is treated as a unique individual and staff work exceptionally well with them to put in place safeguarding arrangements which meet their own particular needs.

Staff respect the right to privacy of each young person. They ensure young people understand when their privacy will be breached to protect them from harm. In this way staff allow young people to feel secure in their own private space.

Staff encourage young people to communicate concerns without delay so that any issues can be dealt with as quickly as possible. Their concerns are treated seriously and dealt with sensitively. Likewise, staff encourage young people to show respect for each other's well-being and to report bullying as soon as it happens. Staff are alert to signs of bullying. These practices help young people to feel secure in the home.

Staff attend training and have access to comprehensive policies in relation to safeguarding young people from abuse and neglect. They are confident in implementing the procedures, which increases safeguards to protect young people from harm. Staff and young people work together to identify ways young people can protect themselves in the home and in the wider community. Staff try to provide young people with the tools and understanding they need to protect themselves from harm.

Practice in relation to behaviour management has exemplary features. Young people play a full part in planning their behaviour management programmes. They work with staff to identify effective ways to manage their behaviour and methods to improve their own self-control. Staff seek to understand the causes of challenging behaviour and to help young people to understand these patterns themselves. Staff set clear boundaries for acceptable behaviour and implement sanctions and restraints in line with these so young people know what to expect. Staff have the support of a behavioural therapist to assist them to develop effective behaviour management models for each individual young person. The behavioural therapist offers staff the opportunity to reflect on their practice and find solutions to problems in managing or understanding behaviour. The outstanding practice of staff in involving young people directly in their own behaviour management strategies results in excellent improvements in behaviour.

Staff securely implement measures to keep the home and its grounds safe. They carry out regular fire drills, health and safety and fire checks. Staff complete excellent risk assessments in relation to young people's known risks and fully implement strategies to protect young people. Staff help young people to understand the risks in being absent from the home without permission and how they can protect themselves outside the home. As a result of these practices, staff reduce the risk of harm to young people.

The provider operates safe recruitment procedures which reduce the likelihood of young people being exposed to people who could harm them.

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.