



Meadow Rise

Inspection report for Children's Home

Unique reference number	SC032717
Inspection date	24/05/2007
Inspector	Trevor Jarvis
Type of inspection	Random

Setting address	Meadow Rise, Office Place, Hetton-le-Hole, Houghton Le Spring, Tyne and Wear, DH5 9JG
Telephone number	0191 553 6774
Email	
Registered person	City of Sunderland Council
Registered manager	
Responsible individual	Helen Paterson
Date of last inspection	02/11/2006

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About this inspection

The purpose of the inspection is to ensure children and young people receive the best possible care and protection of the quality and standards of the service provided. The inspection was carried out under the Care Act 2004.

The inspection was carried out by inspectors from Ofsted, the Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills. The inspection was carried out under the Care Act 2004 and the National Minimum Standards for the service.

The inspection requirements and what they mean

Registration - The provider is of sufficient financial stability to provide the service and the service is being provided in accordance with the requirements of the Care Act 2004.

Quality - The quality of the service is of good standard.

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

This is a purpose built care home. This means the home can be used by wheelchair users and other disabled young people. It is single storied home with single bedrooms, two lounges and a separate dining room. Bedrooms do not have en-suite facilities, but the home provides a choice of bathing or showering facilities and toilets for the young people, as well as extra staff facilities. The home has a large fenced garden including a grassed area. The home is within walking distance of shops and a park. Three young people live at the home at the moment. One young person also visits the home as part of a Transitional arrangement for some evenings and weekends.

Summary

The overall quality rating is good.

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

The home was not told that there was going to be an inspection and when the inspection would be. The inspection was carried out in May 2007.

On the day the inspector talked to young people, the manager, staff, and looked at how they all talked to each other. The inspector was also shown round the home.

The inspector had a meal with young people and checked the home's paperwork.

Young people get a good service at Meadow Rise. The home has rules and plans that the staff follow.

The staff help young people take medicine if needed, and go with them to the doctor or nurse if they have an appointment.

The young people who live in the home are given good support to develop their social skills, and their skills around the house.

The home is a nice, clean place to live. The manager is going to talk with her boss about getting money to redecorate some parts of the building which everybody uses, to freshen the place up.

The care staff do a good job. The staff say that they enjoy their job. Young people say they are always smiling and happy.

Improvements since the last inspection

Staff have now created an attractive recreational room for the use of young people.

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Staff take great care to get to know the young people in Meadow Rise and find out their likes and dislikes about food. If there is any food the young people really like the staff will put the food on the menu. Staff encourage young people to eat appropriate portion sizes, and the food both looked appetising and tasted good. Although young people in the home largely rely on staff to make food and drink available, every effort is made to encourage young people to be involved in planning, preparing meals, clearing tables and washing up afterwards whenever possible. Staff cook culturally appropriate food and avoid using convenience foods with little nutritional value. Staff make snacks and drinks accessible for young people between mealtimes. There is a relaxed atmosphere at mealtimes.

Staff help the young person to stay healthy. The records for young people describe their health needs, and whose job it is to make sure that good health is kept up. All young people receive regular health checks, and staff make sure ongoing appointments for specialist treatment are also kept. Staff try hard to make sure young people have lots of exercise.

There is a policy with written guidance used in practice for storing and giving out medicines. Prescribed and household medicines are locked away safely in a locked cabinet whose key is not available to young people. Staff make sure that everything is written down properly and kept up to date. A record was checked during the inspection and there was no difference between what was actually in the medicine cabinet and what the record said there should be. No young people have been assessed by staff as sufficiently responsible to take medicines themselves.

The manager has very high expectations of staff about medicines. Any new medicines prescribed to young people are discussed in team meetings. First aid, minor illness treatment and giving medicines at the home is only done by capable, specially trained staff. Staff keep an eye on the condition of young people taking medicines, and will call in the doctor if they are concerned about any changes in conditions that may be a result of taking medicines on a regular basis.

The staff have had training on helping young people take their medicine. This helps them to do a better job.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is not judged.

The home has information on abuse and on what staff should do if they think someone is being harmed or treated badly. Staff remain committed to practices which protect young people from harm, are clear about how to recognise the signs of abuse or neglect. Staff also have a full understanding about the thresholds that apply

to child protection, and know what to whom they should refer concerns or child protection issues. All staff have received training about this.

Staff were seen helping young people to develop socially acceptable behaviour wherever possible by praising good behaviour. Staff think about each young person's individual needs and how these can affect the group. Whilst staff were observing the young people and they feel a young person's behaviour is not acceptable, they have ways of helping the young person understand and do behave differently. In some situations they show a young person a red or a green card which works quite effectively in getting the message across.

Young people's safety within the home is protected by careful use of the visitor's book, and suitable procedures for the recruitment and checking of staff.

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.

Meadow Rise is clean and comfortable. Everybody who lives at the home has their own private bedroom. The bedrooms are currently being redecorated with young people's views taken notice of. The young people share a lounge, dining room and two activities rooms. There are enough toilets and bathrooms. The home has the feel of a family home without the pressures of family living.

Staff have recently finished decorating a recreational room for the young people converted from an empty bedroom. The furniture and furnishings are all attractive to the young people including a durable, bright red leather settee which is easy to clean. Some of the other shared rooms in the home need redecorating and the manager has promised to sort this out. The young people will be asked to help choose colour schemes.

Sometimes things break or need changing in the home. The home rents the house from a private housing association. The housing association always deal with these things quickly usually within 24 hours. This means the home is always safe.

Organisation

The organisation is not judged.

On the day of the inspection the manager and two staff were working when the young people were around. This was a sufficient number of properly qualified and experienced staff. Staff work well together, are well organised and share information and views so that young people's care is consistent and well thought out. The manager and approachable team have created the conditions where workers feel positive and confident, and are able to do the work, enjoy it and promote it.

Every month someone who doesn't work at the home comes to check that young people are being looked after well and completes a report which is sent to the home.

Young people have an individual file which contains information about them and it is kept in a safe place.

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
24	make sure that communal parts of the home are redecorated	31/08/2007

Notice of requirement to improve

Ofsted has judged your Childrens Home provision as not meeting a regulation. This notice contains details of actions you need to take to bring about the necessary improvement by the dates given.

Action	Date
make sure that communal parts of the home are redecorated	31/08/2007

You should have completed those actions with dates that have already passed.

An inspector may carry out an announced or unannounced visit to check that the necessary improvements have been made. If you have not carried out the required action or what you have done has had little impact, we may take further enforcement measures.

You must carry out these actions by the date given otherwise Ofsted may take further action.

You will need to let us know when you have carried out all of the actions, by completing the attached reply form and returning it to Ofsted at the above address. If we have not heard from you by the date given, we will contact you again.