

1254555

Registered provider: Next Stage 4 Life Ltd

Interim inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This privately run children's home offers care and accommodation for up to two young people who may be experiencing emotional and/or behavioural difficulties.

A new manager has been appointed to the home and has made an application for registration with Ofsted. She is supported by an experienced and suitably qualified staff team.

As part of this interim inspection, consultation has taken place with the local authority designated officer, education providers, the registered individual and one young person.

Inspection date: 12 March 2020

Date of last inspection: 3 July 2019

Judgement at last inspection: Good

Enforcement action since last inspection:

None.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
03/07/2019	Full	Good
05/03/2019	Interim	Improved effectiveness
10/05/2018	Full	Requires improvement to be good
16/02/2018	Interim	Declined in effectiveness

This inspection

The effectiveness of the home and the progress and experiences of children and young people since the most recent full inspection

This home was judged good at the last full inspection.
At the interim inspection, Ofsted judges that it has improved effectiveness.

Since the last full inspection, in July 2019, there have been no young people discharged from the home and no new admissions to the home. Two young people remain in this placement.

At the last inspection, two requirements and one recommendation were made to improve practice. The manager and staff have taken effective action to address these matters. Door locks and door alarms have been removed. The home's location risk assessment has been updated and the manager and staff have requested and obtained essential documents from the local authority, such as personal education plans and education and healthcare plans.

Both young people have lived in this home for almost three years. They have formed excellent relationships with the staff and continue to make excellent progress in all areas of their lives. Staff develop personalised care plans for each young person. This unique wraparound package of support helps young people to achieve in all areas of their lives.

Education providers speak highly of this service. A deputy headteacher said, 'Staff always attend every meeting and work really well with the young person to prepare them for each day. The young person is making great progress.' Likewise, staff understand young people's limitations with regard to how overwhelming a further education environment may be for them. Therefore, the staff also work with local businesses that provide young people with excellent work experience and apprentice opportunities.

Music is a key feature in young people's lives. Their musical interests are extremely well supported. They are provided with individual tutoring to help them learn to play musical instruments of their choice. This includes guitar and piano lessons. In addition, one young person continues to attend singing lessons and is making excellent progress. Young people's love of music is consistently encouraged. They attend regular concerts and festivals, which has helped them to further develop their social skills, confidence and friendships.

Young people are protected and safeguarded in this home. The manager and staff work with the young people to identify risks and develop strategies together to minimise any future risks. As a result, young people are rarely missing from the home. Furthermore, there have been no incidents requiring physical intervention and there has been a significant reduction in challenging behaviours.

The home is operated with a consistent staff team. Staff receive regular supervision and attend a range of specialised training courses provided by the organisation. The manager has a clear direction for the ongoing development of the service. This enthusiastic approach to leadership and management is welcomed and supported by the whole staff team.

Although the manager is persistent in her focus on ensuring that the local authority provides an up-to-date transition plan for one young person, this is often met with delays. The manager must seek to escalate concerns and challenge delays with the local authority to avoid any further unnecessary postponements. One recommendation is made to address this matter.

What does the children's home need to do to improve?

Recommendations

- Where a placing authority or another relevant person does not provide the input and services needed to meet a child's needs during their time in the home or in preparation for leaving the home, the home must challenge them to meet the child's needs (see regulation 5c)). Staff should act as champions for their children, expecting nothing less than a good parent would. The registered person should consider the use of an independent advocate if the child's needs are not being met ('Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards', page 12, paragraph 2.8). This is with specific regard to the local authority's delay in updating transition arrangements for one young person.

Information about this inspection

This inspection focused on the effectiveness of the home and the progress and experiences of children and young people since the most recent full inspection.

Inspectors have looked closely at the experiences and progress of children and young people, using the 'Social care common inspection framework'. This inspection was carried out under the Care Standards Act 2000 to assess the effectiveness of the service, how it meets the core functions of the service as set out in legislation, and to consider how well it complies with the Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015 and the 'Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards'.

Children's home details

Unique reference number: 1254555

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Next Stage 4 Life Ltd

Registered provider address: Regency House, 45–53 Chorley New Road, Bolton, Lancashire BL1 4QR

Responsible individual: Jeremy Alston

Registered manager: Corinne Hartley

Inspector

Maria McGranaghan, Social Care Inspector

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Piccadilly Gate
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