

# 1254555

Registered provider: Next Stage 4 Life

Interim inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

## Information about this children's home

The children's home is one of a number of homes operated by a private organisation. It is registered to provide care and accommodation for up to two young people who have emotional and/or behavioural difficulties.

**Inspection date:** 16 February 2018

**Judgement at last inspection:** good

**Date of last inspection:** 13 November 2017

**Enforcement action since last inspection:** none

## 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 declined in effectiveness.

In the temporary absence of the registered manager, a deputy manager is in charge of running the home. The effectiveness of the leaders and managers in ensuring the quality of care that young people receive has declined since the last inspection. A robust risk assessment was not undertaken to ensure that a young person's contact with a friend was safe. Reasonable steps were not taken, as a good parent would have done, by the deputy manager or the staff to identify hazards and risk factors that may have had the potential to cause harm to the young person. Also, the social worker was not consulted about the contact arrangements.

Furthermore, the inspector found alterations to a record previously reviewed. This obstructive practice does not provide for transparency to enable Ofsted or other agencies to conduct their duties in safeguarding young people. Also, it is not in-keeping

with the ethos and overall aims of the home. To the credit of the senior manager, this was promptly acted upon during the inspection and an investigation was initiated.

The staff provide a welcoming and homely environment for young people to feel comfortable. The home is generally very well kept and furnished. Young people have their own bedrooms and the staff encourage them to keep their rooms clean. However, young people have specific needs that can make this task very difficult for both the staff and the young people. Despite these efforts, the safety and hygiene of one bedroom is in need of improvement. Action was taken to address this during the inspection.

That said, young people remain settled living in the home and continue to make good progress in their education. They attend school regularly and achieve their targets. Also, they participate in a wide range of activities and hobbies that they enjoy such as, singing lessons, festivals, volleyball, ice skating and cinema trips. They also spend quality time at home playing games and watching television programmes together with the staff. These experiences help to build their confidence and relationships with the staff.

The one requirement made at the previous inspection has been partially met. A young person's attendance at health appointments is slowly improving and the staff continue to encourage the young person's attendance at relevant health appointments. The staff team has regular training, supervisions and team meetings to keep staff abreast of the changing needs of young people. Staff enjoy their work and are complimentary of the support and guidance they receive.

The senior managers are well aware of the strengths and weaknesses in care practice, and they are currently taking action to remedy the concerns identified as a result of this inspection. However, the breaches of regulations and shortfalls in care practice have contributed to the judgement of declined in effectiveness.

## Recent inspection history

| Inspection date | Inspection type | Inspection judgement |
|-----------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| 13/11/2017      | Full            | Good                 |

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

### Statutory requirements

This section sets out the actions that the registered person(s) must take to meet the Care Standards Act 2000, Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015 and the 'Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards'. The registered person(s) must comply within the given timescales.

| Requirement                                                                                                            | Due date   |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| In order to meet the protection of children standard, the registered person must ensure that staff assess whether each | 19/03/2018 |

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |            |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| child is at risk of harm, taking into account information in the child's relevant plans, and, if necessary, make arrangements to reduce the risk of any harm to the child; and that the premises used for the purpose of the home are designed, furnished and maintained so as to protect each child from avoidable hazards to the child's health. (Regulation 12(2)(a)(i)) and (d)) |            |
| In order to meet the leadership and management standard, the registered person must lead and manage the home in a way that is consistent with the approach and ethos, and delivers the outcomes, set out in the home's statement of purpose. In particular, that records are not altered. (Regulation 13(2)(a))                                                                      | 19/03/2018 |

## Information about this inspection

Inspectors have looked closely at the experiences and progress of children and young people. Inspectors considered the quality of work and the differences made to the lives of children and young people. They watched how professional staff work with children and young people and each other and discussed the effectiveness of help and care provided. Wherever possible, they talked to children and young people and their families. In addition, the inspectors have tried to understand what the children's home knows about how well it is performing, how well it is doing and what difference it is making for the children and young people whom it is trying to help, protect and look after.

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.

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

**Registered provider address:** Next Stage, 28 Manchester Road, Westhoughton, Bolton BL5 3QJ

**Responsible individual:** Richard Guy

**Registered manager:** Post vacant

Mark Doyle

## **Inspector**

Caroline Jones, social care inspector

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