

# 1270297

Registered provider: Next Stage 4 Life

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

## Information about this children's home

This home is operated by a private company. It is registered to provide care and accommodation for up to three young people irrespective of gender. The home specialises in caring for young people who have been or who are experiencing emotional and/or behavioural difficulties.

There is a registered manager in post.

**Inspection dates:** 12 to 13 September 2018

**Overall experiences and progress of children and young people, taking into account** **good**

How well children and young people are helped and protected **good**

The effectiveness of leaders and managers **good**

The children's home provides effective services that meet the requirements for good.

**Date of last inspection:** first inspection

**Overall judgement at last inspection:** not applicable

**Enforcement action since last inspection:** none

## 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   |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| <p>The quality and purpose of care standard is that children receive care from staff who—</p> <p>understand the children's home's overall aims and the outcomes it seeks to achieve for children;</p> <p>use this understanding to deliver care that meets children's needs and supports them to fulfil their potential.</p> <p>In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to—</p> <p>understand and apply the home's statement of purpose;</p> <p>ensure that staff—</p> <p>provide to children personal items that are appropriate for their age and understanding; and</p> <p>make decisions about the day-to-day arrangements for each child, in accordance with the child's relevant plans, which give the child an appropriate degree of freedom and choice.<br/>(Regulation 6 (1)(a)(b)(2)(a)(b)(viii)(ix))</p> | 05/10/2018 |
| <p>The registered person must ensure that—</p> <p>at all times, at least one person on duty at the home has a suitable first aid qualification.<br/>(Regulation 31(2)(a))</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 05/10/2018 |

## Inspection judgements

### **Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good**

Young people are settled and happy living in the home. They receive nurturing and supportive care from a stable staff team. Staff know the young people very well, invest time in them, and strive to give them the best opportunities.

Young people's attendance at school is much improved due to the encouragement of staff. Young people are beginning to value their education and are making plans to study drama at college in the future. These are positive steps forward with young people.

Young people enjoy spending time with their friends and access recreational activities. They have completed work experience at the local horse riding centre. Photographs show staff and young people enjoying time together and having fun.

Staff have a good understanding of young people's background and history. Life-story work and memory books are completed with young people. Staff have also taken young people back to their birthplace, to help them to understand their life journey.

Care planning is generally good and young people's day-to-day needs, such as routine privacy and enjoyable meal times, are met. However, funding around extra money for haircuts, toiletries and personal care for individual young people is not clear. This can hamper young people's choice and expression of preference. This was addressed at the inspection by the registered manager.

Young people are in good health. They are registered with appropriate healthcare services and attend all necessary appointments. They are encouraged to eat healthily and to exercise. They receive regular therapeutic input and support in relation to all aspects of their health and well-being from a trained psychologist.

A warm welcome is part of the introduction to the home alongside a children's guide explaining how the home runs. Effective consultation is regularly undertaken with young people to ensure that they have the opportunities to voice their views and opinions.

### **How well children and young people are helped and protected: good**

Young people feel safe and protected. Staff help young people to understand risk and how to stay safe. They understand the need for young people to become independent and to take appropriate risks. This continues to be developed with the social worker to ensure that young people have the same freedoms as their peers.

Young people's behaviour has improved significantly since coming to live in the home. The use of physical intervention is rare. This demonstrates the respectful and trusting relationships that are developing between staff and young people.

Incidents of young people going missing from care has significantly reduced. If this does happen, staff are proactive in their responses. They follow each young person's missing-from-home protocol and report to all relevant agencies in a timely manner. Excellent relationships with the community police officer provides further reassurance and safety to young people.

Safer recruitment practice helps to safeguard against unsafe adults working in the home. Checks with the Disclosure and Barring Service and obtaining references from previous employers are part of this process.

### **The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good**

This home is managed by an experienced and qualified registered manager. He is supported by a deputy manager. Together they set the high standards of care and strive to improve the lives of young people.

Staff spoken to during the inspection said that they enjoy their work. They feel supported by the manager and their team members. The staff are suitably qualified or working towards a recognised qualification. They also have regular training, supervisions and team meetings to keep them up-to-date on emerging information.

There are sufficient numbers of staff members working at the home. However, there have been occasions when at least one person on duty has not held a suitable first aid qualification. This does not ensure the welfare of young people.

External monitoring is good. The independent visitor attends monthly and raises actions for improvement. A quality of care review has been completed to inform and develop the standard of care provided.

Liaison with partner agencies is effective. All professionals contacted spoke very positively about the staff, the communication with them and the progress that young people make. A professional commented, 'I have a good relationship with the staff, this is one of the best homes, communication is excellent.'

### **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.

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:** 1270297

**Provision sub-type:** Children's home

**Registered provider:** Next Stage 4 Life

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

**Responsible individual:** Jeremy Alston

**Registered manager:** Richard Guy

## Inspector

Caroline Jones, social care inspector

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, further education and skills, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for children looked after, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 1231, or email [enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk).

You may reuse this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, visit [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence), write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: [psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk).

This publication is available at [www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted).

Interested in our work? You can subscribe to our monthly newsletter for more information and updates: <http://eepurl.com/iTrDn>.

Piccadilly Gate  
Store Street  
Manchester  
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 1231  
Textphone: 0161 618 8524  
E: [enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk)  
W: [www.gov.uk/ofsted](http://www.gov.uk/ofsted)

© Crown copyright 2018