

## **Children's homes - interim inspection**

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|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Inspection date</b>         | <b>23/02/2016</b>      |
| <b>Unique reference number</b> | <b>SC000802</b>        |
| <b>Type of inspection</b>      | <b>Interim</b>         |
| <b>Provision subtype</b>       | <b>Children's home</b> |
| <b>Registered person</b>       | <b>Arronbeth Ltd</b>   |
| <b>Responsible individual</b>  | <b>John Binks</b>      |
| <b>Registered manager</b>      | <b>Scott Stainsby</b>  |
| <b>Inspector</b>               | <b>Steve Pearson</b>   |

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| <b>Inspection date</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <b>23/02/2016</b>           |
| <b>Previous inspection judgement</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <b>Requires Improvement</b> |
| <b>Enforcement action since last inspection</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <b>None</b>                 |
| <p><b>This inspection.</b></p> <p><b>The effectiveness of the home and the progress and experiences of children and young people since the most recent full inspection:</b></p> <p>This home was judged <b>Requires improvement</b> at the full inspection. At this interim inspection Ofsted judge that it has <b>sustained effectiveness</b>.</p> <p>Overall progress of young people at this inspection is similar to the previous inspection. The registered manager and staff have responded effectively to behaviour that was giving concerns for children's safety. They have liaised effectively with other agencies such as the police, safeguarding experts and independent advocates. This has helped to improve children's safety and has provided valuable support to young people who expressed dissatisfaction about support from their placing authority.</p> <p>In other areas, such as education, overall progress has not been good for all young people. For some it has remained positive while for others attendance has fallen to very weak levels. The registered manager and staff are proactive and creative in their efforts to enable all young people to succeed in education, including close liaison with headteachers and tutors. This is not always taken up by all young people whose educational progress is therefore poor.</p> <p>The staff are keen to provide young people with stimulating experiences and leisure activities. One-to-one support helps young people gain from important learning experiences such as eating in restaurants and going shopping. Staff make good use of individual activities with young people, such as walking in the countryside. This gives each young person the opportunity to discuss any issues and build relationships with the members of staff.</p> <p>Young people's behaviour is generally settled. The staff seldom resort to issuing punishments and the use of physical intervention is rare. Boundaries and expectations of behaviour are not always maintained firmly when there is a lack of family support. Young people may therefore be given a false sense of control about what they can do and their choices about routines such as the requirement to attend full-time education.</p> <p>The registered manager and staff are effective in keeping children safe and promoting their welfare. They work closely with child protection agencies and support charities to ensure young people receive expert support and guidance.</p> |                             |

Effective partnership working helps to ensure children's needs are met.

At the previous inspection Ofsted made nine requirements. The registered persons have met most of these. As a result, children live in a pleasant environment because damage is repaired quickly; they receive better support for their education through effective liaison with virtual head teachers; safety arrangements are better due to risk assessments which are more comprehensive; and children receive better support after occasions when they may have gone missing.

Despite a requirement at the previous inspection, the standard of the registered manager's quality monitoring reports is not good enough. Some important parts of the report are not completed; the views of placing authorities and staff working in the home are not recorded; and the monitoring is not done as often as required by legislation. Consequently there is a risk that shortfalls are not identified and acted on. Additionally, there is no clear action plan associated with each monitoring report. It is therefore unclear whether and how any improvements might take place.

An external and independent person visits the home once a month, in accordance with legal requirements, to evaluate and report on the quality of care. These reports are comprehensive and evaluative. The visitor makes recommendations where necessary to address shortfalls in practice. Sometimes recommendations in the body of report are not always mentioned in the summary of recommendations at the end. This means they may remain unaddressed.

Ofsted is not kept sufficiently informed about the outcomes of this independent monitoring. Specifically, of the seven reports written since the previous inspection, Ofsted has only received four, and two of these were late. Up until now the registered manager has sent the reports to Ofsted. To ensure independence, legislation requires the independent visitor to send them to the registered manager and Ofsted at the same time.

## Information about this children's home

The home is owned and operated by a private company. It is registered with Ofsted to provide care and accommodation for up to four young people with emotional and/or behavioural difficulties.

## Recent inspection history

| Inspection date   | Inspection type | Inspection judgement    |
|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| <b>07/07/2015</b> | Full            | Requires Improvement    |
| <b>22/12/2014</b> | Interim         | Sustained Effectiveness |
| <b>08/05/2014</b> | Full            | Adequate                |
| <b>27/08/2013</b> | Interim         | Inadequate Progress     |

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

### 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 (England) Regulations 2015 and the *Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards*. The registered person(s) must comply with the given timescales.

| Requirement                                                                                                                                                                           | Due date   |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| The independent person must provide a copy of the independent person's report to HMCI once a month. (Regulation 44(7))                                                                | 29/02/2016 |
| The registered person must complete a review of the quality of care provided for children ("a quality of care review") at least once every 6 months. (Regulation 45(1))               | 31/03/2016 |
| The registered person must ascertain and report on the opinions of placing authorities and persons working at the home when conducting the quality of care reviews (Regulation 45(5)) | 31/03/2016 |

### Recommendations

To improve the quality and standards of care further the service should take account of the following recommendation(s):

- Clearly identify in the registered manager's six-monthly quality monitoring reports any actions required for the next six months and how those actions will be addressed. (The Guide to the Quality Standards, page 65, paragraph 15.4).

## **What the inspection judgements mean**

At the interim inspection we make a judgement on whether the home has improved in effectiveness, sustained effectiveness, or declined in effectiveness since the previous full inspection. This is in line with the *Inspection of children's homes: framework for inspection*.

## **Information about this inspection**

Inspectors have looked closely at the experiences and progress of children and young people living in the children's home. Inspectors considered the quality of work and the difference adults make to the lives of children and young people. They read case files, watched how professional staff work with children, young people and each other and discussed the effectiveness of help and care given to children and young people. Wherever possible, they talked to children, 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 who 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.

This inspection was carried out under the Care Standards Act 2000 to assess the effectiveness of the service 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*.

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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)  
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