

Children's homes - interim inspection

Inspection date	16/02/2016
Unique reference number	SC005067
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home
Registered manager	Post vacant
Inspector	Dave Carrigan

Inspection date	16/02/2016
Previous inspection judgement	Requires improvement
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 Requires improvement at the full inspection. At this interim inspection Ofsted judge that it has improved effectiveness. Since the last inspection there have been two changes to the young people living in the home. One person has returned to the family home and another young person has moved to a different placement within the organisation. As a result of these discharges, two young people have been admitted. Young people say they feel safe living at the home. Observations during the inspection and feedback from young people demonstrate the positive relationships between young people and staff. When asked what was good about living in the home, one young person said, you can speak to the staff about anything’. Young people enjoy good health because their health needs are effectively identified and services are provided to meet them. They are encouraged and supported to attend routine appointments with dentists, doctors and opticians. Medication is stored safely, and records are maintained on the administration of medication. Young people are making good progress. There is a reduction in challenging behaviour. Incidents of missing from care are reducing. Young people with a history of refusing education are now fully engaged and are making good progress. They say they are enjoying their college courses and have clear plans for their future careers. Young people are well supported during their transition to adulthood. As part of their independence some young people use an onsite building to practice essential skills in living alone. With the support of staff they learn about money management, shopping, cooking and taking responsibility for their personal hygiene. This means that young people are confident when they leave the home and have a much greater chance of succeeding and managing all aspects of their independent living. The home effectively supports all family contact. This ensures that young people remain close to individuals who are important to them and benefit from being	

involved in a wider support network outside of the home.

Young people live in a safe environment. There are effective health and safety systems in place. Regular practice evacuations ensure young people know how to exit the building safely and quickly in case of an emergency.

A number of new staff have been recruited in recent months. The recruitment and selection process is robust, and comprehensive checks are made to ensure that young people are always cared for by appropriately vetted and experienced staff.

There is a new manager in post in the home, who took up position in October 2015. Ofsted is currently processing her application for registration. The manager has an in-depth development plan in place which identifies further improvements planned specifically for the service. Staff are well supported through regular supervisions, annual appraisals and training and development.

In response to the recommendations made at the last inspection, young people are now engaged in education and there is a clearer system for the capturing of specific information after an incident. Staff now receive regular supervision and there is a workforce plan in place that highlights appropriate process and timescales. The home is now designed and furnished to meet the needs of young people.

Information about this children's home

The home is part of a private organisation providing up to six placements for young people who have emotional and behavioural difficulties.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
28/07/2015	CH - Full	Requires improvement
18/02/2015	CH - Full	Good
07/08/2014	CH - Interim	Sustained effectiveness
14/08/2013	CH - Full	Adequate

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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