

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC005751
Inspector	Anthony Kyem
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Registered person	Care Afloat Ltd.
Registered person address	158-160 Birkrig Digmoor Parade SKELMERSDALE Lancashire WN8 9HP
Responsible individual	Michael Fletcher
Registered manager	Sharon Angeline Mangan
Date of last inspection	28/11/2014

Inspection date	10/02/2015
Previous inspection	outstanding
Enforcement action since last inspection	none

This inspection

This home was judged outstanding at the last full inspection. At this interim inspection Ofsted judge that it has **sustained effectiveness**.

Young people benefit from a home that is managed efficiently and effectively. There are clear and effective arrangements made for monitoring and controlling the home's activities to raise standards and improve outcomes for young people. The manager continues to exercise strong and effective leadership of the home's staff and operation.

There were no requirements or recommendations from the last inspection. There have been no discharges or new admissions to the home. Young people continue to attend school and make good progress in relation to their education.

Young people make a positive contribution to the home and the wider community. They benefit from social and enjoyable activities to promote their interests, social skills and hobbies. Young people enjoy good relationships with staff and they sustain their positive attachments.

Staff demonstrate a good understanding of safe working practice. They consistently place the safety and well-being of young people at the centre of their practice. Care planning and practice is highly individualised to meet the needs of individual young people. Young people benefit from effective, high quality support from staff.

Staff work hard to sustain the stability of young people's placements. They support young people in times of crisis and help them manage any uncomfortable feelings, emotions or anxieties. Young people's unsafe, risk taking behaviours are managed safely. There is an effective response to meet their specific needs and staff address their vulnerabilities. Young people have access to the services and support they need to promote their physical, emotional and psychological well-being. Staff work positively and proactively with other professional agencies to meet the needs of individual young people.

Young people know how to make a complaint and their rights are promoted effectively. There have been no complaints raised by young people since the previous inspection. Staff promote young people's positive behaviour. The use of restraint is only ever used as a last resort to protect young people from harm and appropriate records are maintained for its use. The use of sanctions are kept to an absolute minimum.

A social worker reports, 'They're fantastic. She likes it there and she wants to be there. Staff have managed her behaviour very well. I have no concerns...Hospital staff have commented on how well the staff work with her. They're not giving up on her. It's about getting her stable.'

Young people rarely go missing and if they do, there are effective procedures and arrangements to promote their safe return. The local police report, 'The home places no demand on the police and appears to be a well-run establishment...The staff there are always co-operative and seem very willing to work in partnership.'

Significant incidents are notified to the appropriate authorities promptly to ensure appropriate action is taken following a significant event. The home has recently suffered some damage as a result of a previous incident. Consequently, there are outstanding repairs needed to an upstairs bannister and a broken bathroom door. The most recent notification included a young person being admitted to hospital during crisis. It is not yet known if the young person will return, at this time. The home has requested a full psychological assessment to determine if the placement remains suitable. There are no breaches in regulations or failures to meet the national minimum standards that impact negatively on the welfare and safety of young people.

As a consequence of this inspection, there is one requirement and a recommendation made. These relate to reviewing the suitability of young people's placements in consultation with other professionals and the timely completion of any outstanding repairs.

Information about this children's home

A private organisation operates this children's home. This service is registered for one young person with emotional and behavioural difficulties.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
28/11/2014	Full	outstanding
04/03/2014	Interim	good progress
10/12/2013	Full	good
21/02/2013	Interim	good progress

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

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 Regulations 2001 and the National Minimum Standards. The registered person(s) must comply with the given timescales.

Reg.	Requirement	Due date
23 (2001)	ensure all parts of the home to which children have access are so far as reasonably practicable free from hazards to their health or safety. This relates specifically to repairing and making safe the broken stair bannister and bathroom door. (Regulation 23 (a)).	28/02/2015

Recommendations

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

- ensure children can remain in the home until moving on is in their best interests (taking their wishes and feelings into account) unless this is impracticable or is against the welfare of others (NMS 11.5).

What inspection judgements mean

At the interim inspections 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

The purpose of this inspection is to assure children and young people, parents, the public, local authorities and government of the quality and standard of the service provided. The 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 relevant regulations and meets the national minimum standards.

The report details the main strengths, any areas for improvement, including any breaches of regulation, and any failure to meet national minimum standards. The judgements included in the report are made against the framework of inspection for children's homes.