

SC005751

Registered provider: Doncaster Deaf Trust

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This is a privately run children's home. It is registered to provide care and accommodation for one young person, aged between 11 and 17, who has emotional, social and behavioural difficulties.

Inspection dates: 24 to 25 April 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 **requires improvement to be good**

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

Date of last inspection: 11 October 2017

Overall judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
11/10/2017	Full	Good
20/12/2016	Interim	Improved effectiveness
28/06/2016	Full	Good
01/03/2016	Interim	Improved effectiveness

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
The protection of children standard is that children are protected from harm and enabled to keep themselves safe In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure— that the home's day-to-day care is arranged and delivered so as to keep each child safe and to protect each child effectively from harm. (Regulation (1)(2)(d)) In particular, address the maintenance issue in relation to the dining room ceiling.	14/05/2018
The registered person must ensure that an independent person visits the children's home at least once each month. The independent person must provide a copy of the independent person's report to HMCI. (Regulation 44 (1)(7)(a))	26/07/2018
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. After completing a quality of care review, the registered person must produce a written report about the quality of care review and the actions which the registered person intends to take as a result of the quality of care review ("the quality of care review report"). The registered person must— supply to HMCI a copy of the quality of care review report within 28 days of the date on which the quality of care review is completed. (Regulation 45 (1)(3)(4)(a))	26/07/2018

Recommendations

- Ensure that there are clear arrangements in place to maintain effective management when the registered manager is absent, off duty or on leave. ('Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards', page 54, paragraph 10.20)

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

The child living in this home is making good progress in all aspects of his development. Staff know him well and have developed positive relationships with him. Consistent care has helped him to develop his self-confidence and self-esteem.

Staff enable him to influence his day-to-day care experiences. They listen to him, and give him opportunities to talk about his care, such as recreational activities and food choices. He particularly enjoys helping staff to prepare the evening meal. He is learning skills and techniques that will benefit him in his adult life.

Education attendance is 100%. Staff find out the barriers to learning. They work with education staff and devise plans that include the child's interests. This has enhanced his experiences, making education goals fun and achievable. Staff are proud of his achievements in woodwork and display his work throughout the home. A social worker said, 'He has done amazingly well with his education.'

Staff provide a nurturing environment. They recognise that routine and boundaries provide stability and security. This has been vital in helping the child to manage his anxieties and frustrations in a calmer way.

Staff have supported the child to engage in community activities. He has joined the library and has learned to swim at the leisure centre. These experiences have given him a sense of belonging in the community and have helped to increase his self-confidence.

Children who move on from the home settle quickly into their new placements. The transition plan is gradual, with opportunities to stay for an evening meal and/or overnight visits. This provides the child with an opportunity to build relationships with the staff who will be caring for them, and meet the other young people who already live in their new home.

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

The child has not gone missing from the home. Staff keep him busy, supporting him to pursue his interests and hobbies. They follow his care plan and supervise him in the community. They teach him how to keep safe and support him to use the internet safely.

Physical intervention has not been necessary. Risk assessments and behaviour management strategies are well planned. Staff know what to do when he gets angry and frustrated. They provide consistent care and encourage him to talk about his emotions.

Staff have enabled the child to feel safe and secure in the home. He has built trusting relationships with his staff and talks to them about his past experiences. This helps him to build his emotional resilience.

The manager and staff have a good understanding of the child's emotional needs. They work with therapists and social workers to provide the right level of care.

Staff files have the required information to provide good recruitment and selection processes. This enables a safe and competent workforce.

The dining room ceiling is damaged. This needs repairing to ensure that the child, staff and visitors to the home are safe.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: requires improvement to be good

The manager was registered in October 2017. She oversees two homes within the organisation. A team coordinator was intended to support her with management tasks. However, this arrangement is not working because the team coordinator is busy working shifts. This shortfall compromises management oversight of both homes.

The required monthly independent visitor's reports and the quality of care report have not been sent to the regulator. This is a breach in the children's homes regulations.

The manager identifies the strengths of the home and the areas for development. She is able to show the good progress the child has made from his starting point. She is aware of the management shortfalls and is keen to make the necessary improvements.

The manager has addressed the requirements raised at the last inspection. The staff rota contains the hours when staff are on shift. Risk assessments and placement plans are up to date. The manager reviews the independent visitor's report and checks for factual errors. The radiators, worn carpets and broken bathroom tiles have been replaced.

The manager is well thought of by her staff team. Staff describe her as 'approachable'. They say that the training they receive is 'good' and specific to the child's needs.

The manager works well with other professionals involved with the child. A social worker spoke highly of the manager's communication, which results in all parties feeling well informed of the child's needs and progress.

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: SC005751

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Doncaster Deaf Trust

Registered provider address: Doncaster College & School for the Deaf, Leger Way,
Doncaster, South Yorkshire DN2 6AY

Responsible individual: Michael Fletcher

Registered manager: Joy Higham

Inspector

Jo Hornby, social care inspector

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