

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC006010
Inspector	Anthony Kyem
Type of inspection	Full
Provision subtype	Children's home

Registered person	Care Afloat Ltd.
Registered person address	158-160 Birkrig Digmoor Parade SKELMERSDALE Lancashire WN8 9HP
Responsible individual	Daniel Curran
Registered manager	Sharon Angeline Mangan
Date of last inspection	17/03/2014

Inspection date	07/10/2014
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Previous inspection	good progress
Enforcement action since last inspection	none

This inspection	
Overall effectiveness	adequate
Outcomes for children and young people	good
Quality of care	good
Keeping children and young people safe	adequate
Leadership and management	adequate

Overall effectiveness

Judgement outcome	adequate
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At the time of this inspection young people in placement were relatively new to the home. Consequently, young people are still in the early stages of developing their positive and constructive relationships with staff. Young people make good progress in relation to their individual starting points across most aspects of their welfare, physical, social, emotional and behavioural development. Staff demonstrate a good understanding of safe working practice. They ensure young people are kept safe and feel safe.

Young people report, 'Yeah I feel safe. This home would be mint if you moved it to Manchester. That's where all my friends are. The staff are alright. I tell them when they're not. I'd rate it a hundred out of ten if, it was in Manchester.'

Young people benefit from a home that is managed efficiently and effectively. The manager routinely makes good use of the home's monitoring activities to improve outcomes for young people. The manager has a positive understanding of the home's strengths and they tackle identified weaknesses, to secure improvement. The manager exercises effective leadership of the home's operation.

Staff consult with young people so they feel able to contribute to and influence the running of the home. Care planning and practice is highly individualised and tailored

specifically, to meet the needs of individual young people. Young people benefit from good quality care that prioritises their safety.

A social worker from the Youth Offending Service reports, 'Part of his order is to attend education. If we want to visit the home we're always made to feel welcome. They're supportive of young people's appointments with us.'

As a result of this inspection, there is one requirement and two recommendations made for the registered person, to address. These relate to health and safety, updating the home's development plan and obtaining a personal education plan and a statement of young people's special educational needs.

Full report

Information about this children's home

This private children's home provides residential care and accommodation for young people who may have emotional and behavioural difficulties. This home is registered for one young person.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
17/03/2014	Interim	good progress
26/04/2013	Full	adequate
13/03/2013	Interim	good progress
31/07/2012	Full	adequate

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)	The registered person shall ensure that all parts of the home to which young people have access are so far as reasonably practicable free from hazards to their safety. (Regulation 23 (a))	03/11/2014

Recommendations

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

- ensure young people are helped to achieve their educational goals. This

relates specifically to obtaining personal education plans and statements of special educational needs, where necessary. (NMS 8.4)

- ensure the development plan is reviewed annually for the future development of the home. (NMS 15.2)

Inspection judgements

Outcomes for children and young people **good**

Staff provide young people with good support to develop their emotional resilience and a positive self-view. They support young people to manage their feelings and emotions so they cope with stress and develop their capacity to withstand life's challenges. Staff are positive role models for young people. Young people benefit from supportive adults, they can look up to and learn from. Young people benefit from continuity of care to enable them to form positive relationships and attachments.

There are clear expectations for young people to engage in full time education. Young people are actively encouraged to attend school or alternative educational provision. The educational achievement of young people is good, taking into account both their attainment and progress in relation to their individual starting points at the time of placement. The home maintains effective partnerships with young people's schools to promote their regular attendance. The manager has requested copies of personal education plans and statements of special educational needs to promote young people's progress.

Young people are encouraged to make a positive contribution to the home and the wider community. The home provides young people with positive activities to develop their social skills, interests and hobbies. Young people attend some activities with staff but they will often refuse them. Young people say they prefer to spend time with their peers and make friendships with other young people. Staff monitor young people's relationships to ensure these are safe and suitable relationships for young people.

Staff promote contact so young people can maintain their close relationships with the people who are most important to them. Young people benefit from good support to promote their independence. They develop skills, such as ironing, cooking and shopping. They acquire practical skills and emotional resilience to help prepare them for independent living. Young people are allowed to take appropriate risks as part of their growth and natural development.

Staff have a good understanding of young people's particular vulnerabilities and they take appropriate action, to address them. Risk taking behaviours, such as anti-social behaviour and offending are either controlled or minimised. Staff demonstrate a good understanding of safe working practice. They implement the home's rules and boundaries to protect young people and keep them safe from harm.

Quality of care **good**

Young people benefit from continuity of care to help them develop their positive relationships. Young people feel they are listened to and within reason their views, wishes and feelings are acted on. As a result, young people feel able to influence the running of the home. Young people know how to make a complaint and their rights are promoted effectively. There have been no complaints since the previous inspection and no concerns or issues were raised by young people.

Young people benefit from well planned, highly personalised care that promotes their needs effectively. Young people's needs arising from personal identity, age, gender, race and ethnicity are all identified and met, as part of care planning and daily living. Staff have a good understanding of the needs of individual young people. They work positively and pro-actively to promote positive outcomes for them.

Young people are registered with doctors, dentists and opticians. They receive support and encouragement to attend their health routine appointments to promote their positive health. Young people benefit from specialist services, if they need them, to promote their emotional and psychological well-being. Young people are taught about key health issues and staff actively encourage them to lead and maintain a healthy lifestyle. Young people's medication is stored and administered safely, by trained and competent staff. Medical consent is in place and staff are clear about what health decisions and responsibilities are delegated to them. Young people benefit from a healthy environment that promotes their good health and well-being.

Young people benefit from a warm, homely and comfortable living environment. The home is consistently maintained to good quality standards for young people. There is an effective programme of redecoration and repair and staff take good care of young people's accommodation. The manager has completed a safer location review to ensure the location of the home is safe and suitable for young people. Young people are free to personalise their own private living accommodation in accordance with their individual needs, feelings and wishes.

Keeping children and young people safe adequate

Staff consistently place the welfare and safety of young people at the centre of their practice, irrespective of the difficulties this presents. Staff demonstrate a good understanding of safe working practice. The use of clear risk assessment and positive behaviour management strategies, ensure young people are kept safe and have a strong sense of personal safety. Staff are trained to manage the behaviours of young people safely and effectively.

Young people are protected from abuse, bullying, neglect and child sexual exploitation. Staff are trained in child protection so they know how to deal with allegations and report suspected abuse. Young people are not at risk of harm. There have been no allegations of abuse or referrals to children and young people's services. Staff who care for young people are selected and vetted carefully, to

protect young people from unsuitable people. Visitors to the home are chaperoned and there is suitable monitoring of such people.

Young people at risk of offending benefit from effective support to control their offending risk taking behaviour. Staff maintain effective partnerships with local police, youth offending service and other professionals involved with young people. Young people's positive behaviour is promoted and staff share and implement the home's ethos, approach and philosophy in caring for young people. Restraint is only ever used as last resort to protect young people from the risk of accident, harm or injury. Where sanctions are used, they are used proportionately and fairly to discourage unacceptable behaviour.

Young people rarely go missing from the home and should they do, there are effective arrangements to promote their quick and safe return. Staff follow and implement the local authority's joint protocol and procedures for reporting young people missing from care, to ensure young people receive effective support and protection. The home provides young people with a physically safe and appropriately secure environment.

Health and safety matters are generally managed effectively. There are regular fire drills to ensure staff and young people understand and know how to follow the home's emergency fire evacuation procedures. However, a requirement from the previous inspection has not been acted on. The completion of an asbestos survey has not been completed. Consequently, the same requirement is repeated. The provider has since confirmed that the survey work is now scheduled to take place shortly, to ensure the premises are safe and suitable for young people.

Leadership and management

adequate

The home employs a well-qualified and experienced registered manager. The manager is well established in their position and has many years of residential experience behind them. The manager exercises effective leadership of the home's staff and operation. The manager routinely makes good use of the home's monitoring activities to promote the quality of young people's care and to improve outcomes for young people. Young people benefit from a home that is managed efficiently and effectively.

The home meets the aims and objectives of its statement of purpose. The home has a satisfactory track record based on its performance since the previous inspection. Two recommendations made at the last inspection are no longer applicable. These related to a previous resident young person who no longer lives at the home. A requirement from the last inspection has not been acted on. Consequently, the same requirement is repeated.

There have been no complaints or concerns raised about the provision since the last

inspection. The home is adequately resourced. There are no issues with the home's financial viability. Sufficient numbers of well trained, experienced and suitably qualified staff are employed to meet the needs of individual young people.

Staff benefit from good quality training, effective support and professional supervision. The training needs of individual staff are identified and met. Consequently, staff are able to develop their skills, knowledge and professional practice, in caring for young people. The manager stimulates staff's enthusiasm and they channel their efforts effectively.

Written development plans are in place to promote the home's continuing development and improvement. However, the home's development plan is outdated. This is soon to be reviewed. The home has devised new systems to alert the host authority of the placement and discharge of young people.

Parental consent is obtained from young people and the placing authority. The independent person requires their consent so they can scrutinise the home's records to form an accurate opinion about the quality of young people's care. The performance of the home is monitored effectively. This includes consultation with young people about their care and welfare. Visits are undertaken to the home each month in line with regulation.

Combined with the registered managers monitoring activities, these systems enable the manager to have a good understanding of the home's strengths and weaknesses. As a result, they can take action to secure, the home's improvement.

What inspection judgements mean

Judgement	Description
Outstanding	A service of exceptional quality that significantly exceeds minimum requirements.
Good	A service of high quality that exceeds minimum requirements.
Adequate	A service that only meets minimum requirements.
Inadequate	A service that does not meet minimum requirements.

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.