

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC006017
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	Peter Josiah Mahon
Date of last inspection	26/03/2014

Inspection date	19/09/2014
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Previous inspection	good
Enforcement action since last inspection	none

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

Overall effectiveness

Judgement outcome	good
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Staff consistently place the welfare and safety of young people at the centre of their practice. Young people are kept safe and they have a strong sense of personal safety. Young people enjoy constructive relationships with staff and they sustain their positive attachments. Care planning and practice is highly individualised to meet the needs of individual young people.

Young people are consulted as part of the home's monitoring activities to form an opinion about the standard and quality of their care. Consultation with young people takes place informally, as part of staff's daily interactions with them. The staff routinely encourage young people to be more involved in the running of the home. However, young people rarely contribute to children's meetings. Consequently, their views, feelings and opinions are not routinely evidenced or known. It is therefore difficult to see how young people have influenced or contributed to the running of the home.

Young people benefit from a home that is managed efficiently and effectively. The Registered Manager has a good understanding of the home's strengths and weaknesses. Good use is routinely made of the home's monitoring activities, to secure the home's improvement. The manager exercises effective leadership of the home.

A social worker reports, 'they're really good. They really have the children's best interests at heart. They know her really well and the manager knows what the young person's all about. I have no concerns at all. They always keep me updated and informed. I am very happy with the placement.'

As a result of this inspection, there is one requirement and three recommendations made. These relate to obtaining young people's consent for access to their records, improved recording of young people's views, updating the Statement of Purpose and providing staff with suitable training on E-safety.

Full report

Information about this children's home

This children's home is owned and operated by a private company. The home is registered to care for one young person who may have emotional or behavioural difficulties or a learning disability.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
26/03/2014	Full	good
07/01/2014	Interim	satisfactory progress
22/03/2013	Full	adequate
23/07/2012	Interim	inadequate 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
5 (2001)	shall keep under review and, where appropriate, revise the Statement of Purpose. This relates specifically to including accurate details of individual staff working at the children's home. (Regulation 5 (a))	15/10/2014

Recommendations

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

- ensure young people communicate their views on all aspects of their care and support (NMS 1.3)
- ensure there is a good quality learning and development programme which staff are supported to undertake. This relates specifically to providing staff with training on E-safety (NMS 18.1)
- ensure visits of the home are carried out under regulation 33 include relevant checks set out in regulations and guidance. This relates specifically to obtaining consent from young people and the placing authority for access to their records. (NMS 21.7)

Inspection judgements

Outcomes for children and young people **good**

Young people make good progress in relation to their individual starting points across all aspects of their welfare, physical, social, emotional and behavioural development. The home promotes good outcomes for young people. Young people make good progress to develop emotional resilience, self-confidence and a positive self-view. They benefit from good relationships with staff, who they can talk to and learn from. Staff invest in their relationships with young people.

A social worker reports, 'I have been impressed by the flexibility of approach...this has helped to provide (the young person) with a more settled period and helped to equip her with some of the skills she will need to manage in the adult world. I am particularly impressed that she has been able to access education and in the fact that young people do not appear to be given up on.'

Medical consent is in place and the staff are clear about what health decisions and responsibilities are delegated to them. Young people are registered with doctors, dentists and opticians, so they have access to local health services to promote good health outcomes for them. The home maintains strong links with health professionals, including specialist services, to promote young people's physical, emotional and psychological well-being.

A specialist worker involved in delivering therapeutic interventions for young people reports, 'communication is very good. We have a good working relationship with the home. I have never had any negative feedback from my staff. We are happy with the service provided.'

The educational achievement of young people is good, taking into account, both their attainment and progress in relation to their individual starting points. Young people benefit from regular attendance at school or alternative educational provision. The home maintains effective partnerships with the providers of young people's education, to promote positive educational outcomes for them.

Young people are not of an age where they require pathway plans from the placing authority. Young people benefit from good support to promote their readiness for independence. Staff help young people improve their life skills so young people are skilled and self-confident in shopping, cooking and budgeting. Young people are able to take appropriate risks to promote their natural growth and development.

Quality of care **good**

Young people's needs are assessed comprehensively. Care planning and practice is tailored specifically to meet the needs of individual young people. As a result, young people benefit from well planned, highly personalised care, that promotes their needs effectively.

Young people are involved in their plans, so they have a good knowledge and understanding of them. Young people's needs arising from personal identity, age, gender, race and ethnicity, are all positively addressed in both care planning and daily living.

There have been no complaints made by young people since the previous inspection. Young people know how to make a complaint and their rights are promoted effectively and they are provided with information about the home's complaints procedure. Young people are routinely consulted as part of the home's monitoring activities. This ensures they have the opportunity to report any complaints or concerns about their care. This includes information on children's rights services should they require them. Young people raised no concerns, issues or complaints at this inspection.

Young people are provided with opportunities to enable them to influence and contribute to the running of the home. However, young people are sometimes reluctant or unwilling to contribute to children's meetings. As a result, it is difficult to assess how their views, wishes and feelings are ascertained and acted upon. However, young people benefit from positive and enjoyable activities, such as ice skating, pamper nights, bowling, DVD nights and cinema, to promote their particular interests and hobbies.

Young people are taught about key issues to help them lead and maintain a healthy and active lifestyle. The staff provide advice and support on healthy eating, personal hygiene, contraception and sexual health. The home actively promotes young people's good health, awareness and understanding of key health issues. Young people's medication is stored and administered safely and there are suitable provisions for trained staff to administer emergency first aid for young people, if necessary. A specialist worker involved in delivering therapeutic interventions for young people reports, 'communication is very good. We have a good working relationship with the home. I have never had any negative feedback from my staff. We are happy with the service provided.'

The home is located close to local amenities making these easily accessible to young people. As a result, young people can access places of potential interest to them. The home is maintained to a good quality standard and young people benefit from a warm, comfortable and homely environment. There is an effective programme of re-decoration and repair to ensure the premises are well maintained for young people.

Keeping children and young people safe good

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Keeping children and young people safe
good

Young people are protected from abuse and all other forms of significant harm. Young people have a strong sense of personal safety and they feel safe living at the home. The staff demonstrate a good understanding of safe working practice. They are familiar with their own roles and responsibilities in keeping young people safe from harm. The staff consistently place the welfare and safety of young people at the centre of their practice. Bullying is not an issue for young people within the home.

Staff are trained in child protection so they know to recognise and report suspected abuse. However, not all staff are trained in E-safety to enable them to keep young people safe and manage the risks posed by young people using social media and the internet. There have been no allegations of abuse or referrals to local authority children and young people's services.

Staff follow and implement the local authorities joint protocol and procedures for reporting young people missing from care. There are effective arrangements to promote young people's safe return, if they are missing. The frequency with which young people go missing has reduced, considerably. Young people's risk taking activities are controlled or decreasing so young people do not place themselves at risk of harm.

The use of clear risk assessments, effective behaviour management strategies and pro-active safeguarding practice ensure young people, are kept safer and feel safe. Staff have a good understanding of young people needs and their vulnerabilities and they take appropriate action to address them.

Staff promote young people's positive behaviour. Staff share and implement the home's ethos, approach and philosophy in caring for young people. They manage young people's negative behaviours both safely and effectively. The use of sanctions and restraint are kept to absolute minimum. There have been no restraints for a considerable period of time. Restraint is seen as a last resort and is only ever used if young people are at risk of harm. Where sanctions are used they are used fairly and proportionately.

The home's recruitment practices ensure that adults who work with the young people are vetted and selected carefully, to protect young people from unsuitable people.

The home is physically safe and appropriately secure. Health and safety matters are managed effectively. The home has addressed the previous recommendation to improve health and safety within the home. A carbon monoxide detector is now in place to promote a safe environment for young people.

The manager has completed the home's safer location annual review, to ensure the location of the home is suitable and safe for young people.

Leadership and management

good

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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.