

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC006017
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	Peter Josiah Mahon
Date of last inspection	19/09/2014

Inspection date	20/03/2015
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Previous inspection	good
Enforcement action since last inspection	none

This inspection

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

Young people make good progress and they benefit from effective support from staff. Staff have a good understanding of their needs and they work enthusiastically with young people to maximise the progress they make, across all aspects of their lives. Young people have positive views about their care and they enjoy good relationships with staff.

Young people report, 'It's fine and the staff are cool. Staff are all chilled out and that. Sometimes it gets bad because it's a long, long way from home. It can be quiet being here, on my own. But the staff are cool and they treat me good...I'm doing well in school and it shows their taking notice.'

Young people benefit from the support they need to enjoy contact with their friends and families. As a result, they maintain their close relationships with the people who are most important to them. The home maintains positive relationships with the families of young people to provide them with continuity of care and support. Young people benefit from encouragement and support from staff so they attend school regularly. Staff routinely praise the educational achievements of young people to promote their self-confidence and self-esteem. As a result, they make good educational progress. The home has improved the educational outcomes for young people.

Young people report, 'I get a surprise and rewards for doing well. Before this, I hadn't been to school for some time. So, for me, it's a really big achievement. I left primary school and didn't really do secondary school. If I carry on like this, I could get my GCSE's. I'm proud of myself and my mums proud of me. I've been doing really, really good in school.'

The home has made good progress addressing all of the requirements and

recommendations from the previous inspection. The Statement of Purpose has been reviewed, to include, accurate details about staff working at the home. This enables the home's stakeholders to see what qualifications and experience staff have to meet the needs of young people.

Consent has been obtained from young people and their placing authorities so the independent person can access young people's records. Consequently, they can view the information they need to form an accurate opinion about the quality of young people's care. Staff have undertaken training on E-safety. Consequently, they understand and know how to protect young people from the risks involved in them using social media and the internet. Staff involve young people in one to one sessions to advise and support them. In-house meetings are also provided for young people to express their views, so they can contribute to key decisions and influence their care. As a result, young people feel involved and appropriately consulted.

Staff actively promote the safety of young people. Risks associated with young people are identified clearly so staff have a good understating of their needs. There has been a significant decrease in young people's risk taking behaviours. For example, issues with drug use, self-harm and offending are controlled and minimised to promote the safety of young people. Staff apply the home's rules, boundaries and effective behaviour management strategies to keep young people safe from harm.

Young people know how to make a complaint and their complaints are investigated fully. Consequently, young people feel their views and concerns are treated seriously. The manager monitors the use of sanctions and they take action, if they identify any irregularities. This ensures staff use sanctions appropriately and fairly. The use of restraint is rare, and if used at all, it is only ever used to protect young people from injury.

It is rare for young people to go missing from the home. Should they do so, there are effective procedures and arrangements to promote their safe return. Significant incidents are notified to the appropriate authorities charged with a duty to protect young people. This ensures important information is shared between services and appropriate action is taken by the home and other professional agencies, to support and protect young people.

The manager oversees the day-to-day operations of the home. They exercise effective leadership of the home's operation. The performance of the home is routinely monitored to review the quality of young people's care. This enables the manager to identify any weaknesses so they can take action to secure, improvement. The home's monitoring activities enhance the quality of young people's care and this improves outcomes for young people.

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
19/09/2014	Full	good
26/03/2014	Full	good
07/01/2014	Interim	satisfactory progress
22/03/2013	Full	adequate

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.