

Children's homes - interim inspection

Inspection date	03/09/2015
Unique reference number	SC006294
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home
Registered person	Dove Adolescent Services Limited
Responsible individual	Barbara Whittaker
Registered manager	Amanda Farnaby
Inspector	Debbie Foster

Previous inspection date	04/03/2015
Previous inspection judgement	Sustained Effectiveness
Enforcement action since last inspection	None
This inspection	
The effectiveness of the home and the progress and experiences of children and young people since the most recent full inspection	
This home was judged Outstanding at the last full inspection. At this interim inspection Ofsted judge that it has improved effectiveness.	
Upon the inspector arriving at the home young people immediately expressed their thoughts about how they are looked after. A young person said 'This is a great place to live and all the staff are good here... and I give our home, ten out of ten.' Another said 'This is the best home I have lived in; I have lived in 6 others before coming here.' Young people went on to say that they have good relationships with all staff, and more special relationships with some who they can go to with any concerns. Young people benefit immensely from well-planned and consistent care. This is achieved through regular reviewing of each young person's care and working closely with other professionals. Staff have a strong knowledge of how to safeguard young people and apply this in practice. Young people's safety relating to going missing has improved dramatically. This is due to the understanding given to young people and the support strategies put in place. This is enhanced further by the very strong partnership working with the police and family members. The manager and staff have a great understanding and demonstrate a wealth of knowledge about each young person in their care. They give priority to devising personalised care plans. In turn, the staff have identified, sourced and undertaken more specialist training to ensure that they can completely meet each young person's needs. For example training in foetal alcohol syndrome. This has brought about a number of changes in practice being made on how they care for particular young people. As a result, young people have made significant progress. They are now able to better manage their emotions, have reduced anxiety levels and routinely have more settled and positive behaviour. An Independent Reviewing Officer said 'X is exceptionally well supported and could not be placed anywhere better. Staff have undertaken additional training to meet her needs. At first, I did think, this may not be a long-term placement for her due to X needs, but now, I think this is the best place for her.' A social worker said, 'The staff are excellent, and always keep me up-to-date, with	

weekly written reports, phone calls, all necessary information is passed on to me. X has made a lot of progress and has been put forward for an award as she is doing so well.'

The recommendation made at the last inspection has been addressed. Physical restraint records have numbered pages to make sure the records cannot be altered. This allows an accurate and secure record to be kept.

There are warm and nurturing relationships between young people and the staff who care for them. Young people enjoy one-to-one attention, and activities such as baking, making clay models and going to the park. Young people profit from a happy atmosphere, there is an exchange of laughter and everyday conversation in a relaxed and calm environment.

Young people and staff benefit greatly from well-defined leadership which is child centred. The manager monitors closely each young person's care and staff practice. This is achieved through a number of avenues: being directly involved in their day-to-day care; staff meetings; attending care reviews and the auditing of all care plans. This enables changes to be made where required to ensure that young people continue to make good progress in their lives. Staff say that they are well supported by their manager and they work very well as a team. This is enhanced further by a stable staff team with an abundance of experience working with children and young people. Staff receive regular informal and formal supervision to make sure that very good care practices and standards are maintained and built upon. The service has an array of audit systems, including monthly visits from a nominated person for the provider which are very thorough and detailed. In addition to this, the service has a development plan which identifies areas to bring further improvement. This demonstrates a very strong commitment to continually improve the care and service provided to young people.

Information about this children's home

The home is run by a private company and is registered to provide care for up to four young people of either gender. The Statement of Purpose for the home identifies the primary reason for a young person's placement is to support their emotional or behavioural difficulties.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
04/03/2015	CH - Interim	sustained effectiveness
11/11/2014	CH - Full	Outstanding
19/03/2014	CH - Interim	Satisfactory Progress
24/07/2013	CH - Full	Outstanding

What the inspection judgements mean

At the interim inspection 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

Inspectors have looked closely at the experiences and progress of children and young people living in the children's home. Inspectors considered the quality of work and the difference adults make to the lives of children and young people. They read case files, watched how professional staff work with children, young people and each other and discussed the effectiveness of help and care given to children and young people. Wherever possible, they talked to children, 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 who it is trying to help, protect and look after.

This inspection focused on the effectiveness of the home and the progress and experiences of children and young people since the most recent full inspection.

This 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 Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015 and the *Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards*.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the guidance *raising concerns and making complaints about Ofsted*, which is available from Ofsted's website: www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted. If you would like Ofsted to send you a copy of the guidance, please telephone 0300123 4234, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, workbased learning and skills training, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It inspects services for looked after children and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 4234, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

You may reuse this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, visit www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence, write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk.

This publication is available at www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted.

Interested in our work? You can subscribe to our monthly newsletter for more information and updates: <http://eepurl.com/iTrDn>.

Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 1231
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted

© Crown copyright 2015