

Inspection report for children's home

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|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Unique reference number</b> | SC010699        |
| <b>Inspector</b>               | Jackie Graves   |
| <b>Type of inspection</b>      | Interim         |
| <b>Provision subtype</b>       | Children's home |

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|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Registered manager</b>      | Dawnette Legister |
| <b>Date of last inspection</b> | 29/05/2014        |

|                        |            |
|------------------------|------------|
| <b>Inspection date</b> | 05/03/2015 |
|------------------------|------------|

|                                          |          |
|------------------------------------------|----------|
| Previous inspection                      | adequate |
| Enforcement action since last inspection | none     |

## This inspection

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

The home is judged to have sustained effectiveness as management has made some improvements and young people are doing well, but one requirement from the last inspection is not met and communication with Ofsted is weak.

The appearance of the home and its safety are improved. Repairs and redecoration make a really comfortable and homely environment for young people. Fire safety is improved as fire doors are no longer wedged open. The garden is now tidy and the appearance of the conservatory and laundry is better. Young people like their bedrooms and find these meet their needs. Managers communicate effectively with the police; they have used information about the neighbourhood to improve young people's safety, for example, about areas to avoid when returning at night. However, a location assessment is not yet available.

Things improve for young people when they move into the home. Although most stay only for a short time, some make considerable progress in different aspects of their lives, such as no longer going missing or re-engaging with education after previously poor school attendance. Young people credit the staff with helping them think about what they want to get out of life and having aspirations about their future. Some are better at managing their anger and feel calmer as a result.

Young people like the staff, although they feel a few don't get as involved with them as others do. They like the family atmosphere. Some really enjoy sitting at the table to share meals with the staff and other residents as this is something they haven't previously experienced. Although some young people prefer to do activities with their friends, they are still encouraged to share experiences as a group, for example, celebratory meals to mark the occasion when young people are moving on from the home. Some young people would like more planned activities with staff in the home, such as cooking or enjoying a film together, as they enjoy these so much.

Some records show improvement. Risk assessments are now kept on children's files. Staff recruitment files now show evidence of requesting three references and obtaining at least two and clarifying people's suitability to work with young people. This helps ensure people are safe to be in the home. The manager has supplied a Statement of Purpose to Ofsted but this still does not include all the required information.

Staff and management work effectively with families and professionals involved in young people's lives. They work with teachers, for example, to ensure young people may continue studying for GCSE's when they are temporarily unable to attend school. Good links are made with drugs services to help young people understand the risks to their health of drug use. Information is shared effectively with the police when young people do not return when expected, so they can be found.

Managers have not been so effective in sharing information with the regulator. Not all notifiable incidents have been sent to Ofsted. Reports of the manager's monitoring, and those by an independent visitor, have not been provided in reasonable timescales. Lack of communication prevents the regulator from being kept informed about what is going on in the home and potentially taking regulatory action.

## Information about this children's home

The home is provided by a limited company. The Registered Manager is also the responsible individual. The home provides care for five young people with emotional or behavioural difficulties.

## Recent inspection history

| Inspection date | Inspection type | Inspection judgement  |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| 29/05/2014      | Full            | adequate              |
| 05/12/2013      | Interim         | inadequate progress   |
| 04/04/2013      | Full            | good                  |
| 11/09/2012      | Interim         | satisfactory 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   |
|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| 4 (2001)  | include in the Statement of Purpose all the matters listed in Schedule 1 of the amended regulations(Regulation 4 (1))                                                                                                                                                                                               | 30/04/2015 |
| 30 (2001) | ensure that if any of the events listed in column 1 of the table in Schedule 5 takes place, the registered person shall without delay notify the persons indicated in respect of the event in column 2 of the table, specifically, that Ofsted is informed when appropriate and within 24-hours (Regulation 30 (1)) | 30/04/2015 |
| 31 (2001) | ensure the premises used for the children's home are appropriately and suitably located, so that children are effectively safeguarded and are able to access services to meet needs identified in their care plans or placement plans (Regulation 31 (1A))                                                          | 30/04/2015 |

|              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |            |
|--------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
|              | (a))                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |            |
| 33<br>(2001) | provide a copy of the report about a visit (referred to in this regulation as the 'independent person's report') to HMCI, specifically supply this in a timely manner (Regulation 33 (9) (a))                                        | 30/04/2015 |
| 34<br>(2001) | make sure the registered person supplies a copy of any report in respect of any review conducted by him for the purposes of paragraph (1) to HMCI, with specific reference to providing this in a timely manner. (Regulation 34 (2)) | 30/04/2015 |

## **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.