

Children's homes – Interim inspection

Inspection date	05/09/2016
Unique reference number	SC010699
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home
Registered manager	Dawnette Legister
Inspector	Barnaby Dowell

Inspection date	05/09/2016
Previous inspection judgement	Declined in 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 good at the last full inspection. At this interim inspection, Ofsted judges that it has sustained effectiveness. The full inspection resulted in the making of three recommendations. The home has addressed these effectively. Managers continue to liaise well with the allocated inspector and are committed toward ongoing improvements in the home. There are two requirements resulting from this inspection. Educational progress has improved. Young people enjoy good access to mentoring and advocacy services and respond well to the introduction of a new incentive scheme. Rewards are now obtainable for high levels of school attendance and attainment. Staff are now making progress towards supporting a return to education after prolonged periods of non-attendance. One young person used the summer holiday period to research her own specialist education placement. Staff push young people to enjoy new experiences, such as accessing paint balling sessions. This promotes the importance of healthy living and the development of self-esteem. The home benefits from a programme of structured work on independence skills. Staff engage young people in a number of activities, from cooking to the payment of bills. This improves the quality of key work sessions and supports improved care planning. Staff prioritise life story work. Photos continue to be regularly taken of house activities and there are plans for the uploading to social media accounts. This will provide an accessible and permanent memento of achievements and activities for young people. The home has moved to accepting only planned admissions. Managers consider that emergency admissions unsettle young people. A revised statement of purpose needs to reflect this change. The home plans 'one meet and greet with staff and young people' and a comprehensive amount of documentation prior to considering an admission. The home is now more stable and with an improved sense of 'community'. As a result, relationships between staff and young people have improved and risk-taking behaviour, such as young people absconding from the home, has reduced significantly. For many young people, this is their first period of placement stability. The home is a family-run business. The registered manager is planning to retire and delegate responsibility to her son, the current assistant manager. Presently, neither is receiving any form of supervision, leaving the 'transfer' process and	

oversight of the home lacking in direction and guidance.

Multi-disciplinary work is strong in the home. Comprehensive behavioural management plans support staff and good behaviour. Staff know the young people well and are alive to key behavioural triggers, such as inappropriate use of the internet. Staff liaise closely with the placing local authority's child sexual exploitation risk assessment, exchanging key information. This ensures that risk assessments remain thorough and that young people are safe.

Staff morale is good in the home. One staff member comments, 'I love it here. We really work well with the young people.' There have been no staff departures since the full inspection. This has created an environment where young people build positive relationships with staff and with each other. Three new staff members recently joined and the use of agency staff reduced. Staff report a good level of training and positive supervision, which is suited to the needs of the young people, for example a recent session on the sexual exploitation of young people.

The regular challenge and scrutiny of the independent visitor continues to drive improvements in the home. Case recordings are now more reflective and analytical, with evidence of a good level of management oversight.

Information about this children's home

The home is privately owned and is a family-run business. The registered manager is also the registered provider. The home provides care for five young people with emotional or behavioural difficulties.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
02/12/2015	Interim	Declined in effectiveness
07/07/2015	Full	Good
05/03/2015	Interim	Sustained effectiveness
29/05/2014	Full	Adequate

What does the children's home need to do to improve?

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 (England) Regulations 2015 and the 'Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards'. The registered person(s) must comply within the given timescales.

Requirement	Due date
16: Statement of purpose (3) The registered person must keep the statement under review and, where appropriate, revise it. (Regulation 16 (3)(a))	30/09/2016
33: Employment of staff (4) The registered person must ensure that all employees— (b) receive practice-related supervision by a person with appropriate experience. (Regulation 33(4)(b))	30/09/2016

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 2016