

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC015254
Inspector	Michael Mulvaney
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Registered person	Castle Homes Limited
Registered person address	The Manor House High Street, Rothwell KETTERING Northamptonshire NN14 6BQ
Responsible individual	Shelley Frances Whiting
Registered manager	Helen Clare Llewellyn
Date of last inspection	12/11/2014

Inspection date	20/02/2015
------------------------	------------

Previous inspection	outstanding
Enforcement action since last inspection	none

This inspection

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

Young people are achieving exceptionally well in all aspects of their lives. Some are attending local colleges to complete their formal education, some are undertaking independent living skills programmes, and others are completing their education at the on-site school. This gives them options to complete recognised educational qualifications and gain important life skills. This helps to increase their opportunities in life.

Young people arrange and attend appointments at their local doctors, and the looked after children's nurse is involved in completing health reviews. This helps the young people to have contact with professional services that will support them in keeping healthy. Staff have worked remarkably well with health professionals to reduce the need for some young people to take medication. This has helped them to learn how to regulate their own behaviour without needing high levels of medication. In the long term this will improve their overall health.

Young people continue to have contact with their family. This helps them to understand their background and maintain cultural ties to their community. Staff complete careful risk assessments to ensure that contact is safe for the young people. Staff share these assessments with each family so that they are aware of the young people's needs whilst they are at home. Families report improvements in behaviour and in their education, saying that the 'future is much brighter' for them after living in the home. The families and other professionals comment positively on the staff group's ability to keep them informed about the young people.

The home is decorated to a high standard. The young people's rooms are personalised with photographs of the young people and certificates of achievements.

The young people are involved in the day to day running of the home, for example in choosing the décor of the house through their house meetings. This helps them to take pride in their home and helps to boost their confidence.

Young people feel safe in this home and they speak warmly about their key workers and the staff as a whole. There are regular formal and informal key work sessions designed to give the young people opportunities to talk about their wishes and feelings. Positive relationships help the young people to develop secure attachments with trusted adults and improve their self-esteem. Staff are attentive to the young people and this supports them to develop positive relationships with each other and in the wider community. The young people attend a range of interesting activities such as bowling, the cinema and the local youth group. This gives them opportunities to make a friendship group outside of the home.

The home has access to regular input from a therapist who sees the young people on a regular basis. These sessions help them to come to terms with their past. The therapist is also involved in day to day care plans for the young people and is working in partnership with staff. As a consequence staff are able to develop good care plans to meet the young people's needs. Staff routinely ensure that the young people's wishes and feelings are in their care plans and in their files. This helps them see that their views are valued and taken into account in relation to aspects of their care.

The Registered Manager has a National Vocational Qualification at level 5 in Management and has worked in this home for 3 years. This means she has both the experience and qualification to be in post. The Registered Manager and the provider have a range of successful methods to quality assure the care that the home provides. This along with robust internal and external reports provides them with information which is analysed by staff to ensure that the care is of the highest standard. There are no regulatory requirements or recommendations made as a result of this inspection.

Information about this children's home

This home is part of a large private children's care organisation and is registered to accommodate five boys with emotional and behavioural difficulties or a learning disability. The home offers a therapeutic service to boys with assessed needs linked to sexually inappropriate behaviour. The home has a school and this is registered with the Department for Education.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
12/11/2014	Full	outstanding
19/03/2014	Interim	good progress
09/10/2013	Full	good
17/12/2012	Interim	good progress

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.