

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC016600
Inspector	Tracey Ledder
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Registered manager	Sarah Womersley
Date of last inspection	12/10/2014

Inspection date	10/03/2015
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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 **sustained effectiveness**.

Young people benefit from good quality care and staff who are able to understand and prioritise their needs. As a result young people report feeling settled and well looked after. Appropriate boundaries are consistently applied by staff leaving young people clear about expectations of them. While this can be frustrating for young people they acknowledge that this ensures that they know staff care about them.

Staff create an atmosphere that is nurturing and welcoming. The kitchen is the heart of the house and staff and young people gravitate to this area of the home. There is always a conversation taking place over a cup of tea with an open invite. Young people have individualised bedrooms that reflect their personalities. As a result young people feel relaxed and comfortable living here.

Leaders and managers tackle young people missing from home robustly and creatively. As a result some young people who have previously gone missing from home now rarely leave. Young people who continue to absent themselves from the home are actively followed and searched for. Leaders and managers are able to identify increasing risk early and appropriate multi agency plans are put in place to reduce risk reduction. While young people can feel frustrated with the systems in place they appreciate that it is their welfare being safeguarded.

Leaders and managers have good communication with key missing from home professionals. Key information in respect of missing from home incidents is collated and shared. This results in effective risk reduction strategies being applied. Due to the quality of the information provided to the Police by the home they are in a position to use their powers to prevent young women having contact with one adult of concern.

Young people report feeling safe in the home. They are able to identify a number of

adults that they could talk to if they felt worried or concerned about anything. Open honest discussions take place effortlessly between staff and young people. Young people appreciate this approach to their care.

Leaders and managers have addressed the requirements made at the last full inspection. An independent visitor was appointed. This has supported continuing improvement and appropriate practice challenge within the home.

Sanctions used in the home have reduced dramatically. While some sanctions are effective and based upon reparation, managers acknowledge that there is still room for improvement in this area. Some young people benefit from 'star charts' this allows them to focus on the progress they make and gives them realistic achievable targets.

Young people are making progress in education. Creative approaches are adopted to motivate young people to engage in education that is tailored to their individual needs. Where young people struggle to attend educational settings the home provides bespoke educational programmes. Educational staff are employed to come into the home. As a result all young people have made progress in education.

Young people are supported to attend a wide variety of activities in the community. They are supported to make friends in the local area and friends are welcomed into the home. Young people appreciate this and feel confident that their friends will be welcomed by staff into their home.

Staff are committed to supporting young people beyond them living in the home. One young woman who is now a parent remains in regular contact with staff and still receives appropriate emotional support. Another young person has invited staff to their wedding. The manager has been asked to do a speech. The invite offers evidence that this young adult sees staff as key adults in their life. This approach to care allows young people living in the home to appreciate the commitment that staff offer young people beyond childhood.

Information about this children's home

This private children's home is registered for up to five young people with emotional and behavioural difficulties. The home provides individual support and preparation for independent living and offers an educational outreach service to support young people.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
12/10/2014	Full	good
31/01/2014	Interim	satisfactory progress
31/10/2013	Full	good
25/03/2013	Interim	satisfactory 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.