

# SC018238

Registered provider: Dove Adolescent Services Limited

Interim inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

## Information about this children's home

This is a private home registered to provide care and accommodation for one child or young person who may have emotional and/or behavioural difficulties.

The manager is suitably qualified and was registered when the home opened in November 2018.

**Inspection date:** 18 February 2020

**Date of last inspection:** 15 April 2019

**Judgement at last inspection:** good

**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 the interim inspection, Ofsted judges that it has improved effectiveness.

Staff provide a stable home for the young person and he recognises that he's made progress. Routines and boundaries offer consistency throughout the day helping the young person to feel supported. Staff help the young person to access alternative education in preparation for the transition into a mainstream school. This means that the young person is able to succeed in his learning which will help him with his future opportunities.

Staff encourage the young person to believe in himself and what he can achieve. The manager and staff are ambitious for all young people who move into the home. The staff offer unique opportunities through activities to promote individual interests and talents. This means that the young person is able to develop positive self-esteem and be inspired for the future.

The young person feels safe in the home and he does not run away or go missing. Staff understand the individual risks and ensure that risk assessments are in place. Staff track progress, and when risks change plans are reviewed and updated. Through regular focused sessions, the young person builds good relationships with staff and learns about making positive choices. This means that the risks to the young person are managed and co-ordinated in a way which reduces harm.

Staff use agreed strategies to promote positive behaviour and help the young person to regulate his emotions. Regular access to a clinical team enables the manager and staff to explore issues affecting the young person. Staff reflect and consider how their own feelings and behaviours influence care provided. This means that the young person is supported to get along with others and feel good about himself.

The registered manager is driven to provide good-quality care to every young person. She has developed positive networks with multi-agency professionals who speak highly of the care provided in the home. The manager uses creative ways to communicate with the young person so that she can understand what matters to him. Using the feedback, she makes changes to improve the care offered to young people. Where the young person is not receiving the right help from other professionals, the manager will effectively challenge them. This means that the young person has a home that prioritises his needs and focuses on promoting positive outcomes.

The manager is developing a positive team culture. She is developing her own leadership skills and feels supported by her managers and peers in the organisation. Staff receive encouragement to learn together and as individuals during regular supervisions.

When a young person moves into the home, they are welcomed. However, in an emergency situation the urgency of the move often affects how the staff can be trained to meet the individual needs of the child or young person. Training should be provided in a timely manner so that staff have a greater understanding of a child or young person's assessed needs.

Staff support the young person to actively engage in creating life story books. These help the young person to remember positive times in their life and identify important events. Staff record the young person's day-to-day experiences and unique conversations. They take photographs and keep memorabilia so that life story books can be meaningful and bespoke. This means that the young person is being helped to develop his identity.

## Recent inspection history

| Inspection date | Inspection type | Inspection judgement |
|-----------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| 15/04/2019      | Full            | Good                 |
| 29/08/2018      | Interim         | Not judged           |
| 09/01/2018      | Interim         | Not judged           |
| 26/07/2017      | Interim         | Not judged           |

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

### **Recommendations**

- Sufficient staff means a home having enough suitably trained staff (including someone in a management role) on duty to meet the assessed needs of all children in the home, and that those staff are able to respond to emergency placements, where accepted. The registered person must demonstrate every effort to achieve continuity of staffing so that children's attachments are not overly disrupted, including ensuring that the employment of any temporary staff will not prevent children from receiving the continuity of care that they need (regulation 31(1)). ('Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards', page 51, paragraph 10.1)

In particular, ensure that when a child moves into the home additional training for staff in relation to the individual needs of the child happens in a timely manner.

### **Information about this inspection**

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.

Inspectors have looked closely at the experiences and progress of children and young people, using the 'Social care common inspection framework'. This inspection was carried out under the Care Standards Act 2000 to assess the effectiveness of the service, how it meets the core functions of the service as set out in legislation, 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.'

## Children's home details

**Unique reference number:** SC018238

**Provision sub-type:** Children's home

**Registered provider:** Dove Adolescent Services Limited

**Registered provider address:** 170 Southgate, Pontefract, West Yorkshire WF8 1QJ

**Responsible individual:** Barbara Whittaker

**Registered manager:** Alice Walton

## Inspector

Catherine Heron, Social Care Inspector

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