

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC020545
Inspector	Jo Stephenson
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Email	copenshaw@castlehomes.co.uk
Registered person	Castle Homes Care Limited
Registered person address	Castle Homes Care Ltd, The Manor House High Street, Rothwell KETTERING Northamptonshire NN14 6BQ
Responsible individual	Shelley Frances Whiting
Registered manager	Deborah Jane Bassett
Date of last inspection	03/10/2014

Inspection date	25/03/2015
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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 **improved effectiveness**.

At the last inspection, there were no regulatory or national minimum standard shortfalls. Since then, young people continue to make positive progress because the care they receive is tailored to meet their individual needs. The Registered Manager regularly reviews and updates internal care plans. These mirror the aims and objectives of the placing authorities. As a result, young people benefit from an integrated and comprehensive approach to supporting their development.

Partnership working between staff, social workers and young people continues to be a considerable strength of the home. Young people's wishes and views are incorporated into all internal plans and risk assessment. They regularly participate in meetings to discuss the development of the home and suggest improvements to practice. This means they are actively involved in the day-to-day running of the home. One young person said: 'This feels like a real home because staff ask us what we think about things'.

The home provides long-term accommodation for young people. However, for some, the home offers short term care in preparation for a move to more a suitable placement that better meets their needs. In these circumstances, the Registered Manager effectively liaises with the proposed placements. Structured support plans reduce young people's feelings of anxiety or apprehension. Introductions to new placements are reflective of young people's individual needs and regularly reviewed by the Registered Manager. This ensures they experience a smooth and successful transition.

Young people are safe in the home and say they feel safe. They confirm that they understand how to make a complaint or raise any concern they have, but there have been no complaints since the last inspection. Young people have extremely positive relationships with staff and engage well in one-to-one sessions, where they discuss

their behaviours and recognise the positive progress they make. This means that young people have encouragement to begin to take responsibility for their own actions. As a result, there has been a significant reduction in the number of physical restraints since the last inspection.

Staff ensure that risk assessments detail young people's vulnerabilities and possible antecedents to missing from home episodes. These events are rare and staff work in partnership with local police and young people's families to continually promote young people's safety and welfare. When appropriate, staff advocate for them to have increased contact with their families and friends. This reduces the potential that they might leave the home without permission.

Young people have suitable education placements that reflect their individual learning needs and abilities. Since the last inspection, young people have made excellent progress in education. Young people, who were disillusioned with education prior to their admission to the home, now regularly attend school. Staff work with them to ensure that any educational barriers they face are addressed. This gives them confidence in their skills and achievements and, as a result, they succeed. This promotes their development and improves their self-esteem.

The Registered Manager effectively monitors the quality of care and positive outcomes experienced by young people. Any identified shortfalls are immediately actioned and addressed. The regular review of the service is linked to the development of the home. The views of others, including young people, are incorporated into monitoring systems and demonstrate the home's capacity for continued improvement.

Information about this children's home

This children's home is registered to provide care and accommodation for up to five young people with emotional and/or behavioural difficulties. The home is privately owned and the organisation operates other children's homes in the area.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
03/10/2014	Full	good
28/02/2014	Interim	satisfactory progress
17/10/2013	Full	good
08/02/2013	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.