

SC020576

Registered provider: Castle Homes Care Ltd

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This children's home is registered to provide care for up to five young males between the age of 11 and 18. The home specialises in the care and treatment of young people who have, or are considered likely to present, harmful sexual behaviours.

Inspection dates: 8 to 9 May 2018

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people, taking into account **good**

How well children and young people are helped and protected **good**

The effectiveness of leaders and managers **good**

The children's home provides effective services that meet the requirements for good.

Date of last inspection: 24 January 2018

Overall judgement at last inspection: inadequate

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
24/01/2018	Full	Inadequate
02/03/2017	Interim	Sustained effectiveness
12/10/2016	Full	Good
11/02/2016	Interim	Improved effectiveness

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

Recommendations

- For children's homes to be nurturing and supportive environments that meet the needs of the children, they will, in most cases, be homely, domestic environments ('Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards', page 15, paragraph 3.9). In particular, this relates to young people's bedroom furniture needing to be replaced and to continuing to update the home's decor.

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

Young people have excellent transitions when they leave the home and move into the community. Staff provide planned and individualised work to ensure that young people are prepared for their futures. Young people who have left the home remain in touch with the staff team due to the positive relationships that they have formed.

Young people benefit from therapeutic care, which allows them to explore past behaviours and experiences. They invest in the therapy and make progress.

Two young people are not in formal education due to the company closing the school that they attended. The registered manager has taken action to resolve this and has continued to support the young people's progress in education. As a result, the young people have achieved an entry-level mathematics award and are working towards a similar award in English. The registered manager is now supporting the young people to secure post-16 educational provision in preparation for the coming academic year.

Young people have the opportunity to engage in a range of activities that are individualised and appeal to their interests. They enjoy playing in a football team, playing pool and attending the gym.

The home is clean and tidy. Work has started to modernise the downstairs living areas. This work needs to continue throughout the house to improve the appearance of the home and the environment that young people live in. Some young people's bedroom furniture is also in need of replacement.

How well children and young people are helped and protected: good

Staff provide young people with individual key work sessions and workshops that promote the therapeutic model of care within the home. Staff support young people to be safe and the sessions cover a range of topics, for example sexting, keeping safe, anger management and internet safety.

The registered manager has developed clear and concise risk assessments that are regularly reviewed. Risk assessments consider potential triggers for young people and provide staff with clear guidance on what action they should take to reduce risks for young people.

Young people have learned to regulate and manage their emotions safely. As a result, staff no longer use physical interventions. Staff provide young people with clear guidance and boundaries and they praise and reward positive behaviour.

Staff have a good understanding of safeguarding. They act quickly in the event of a young person going missing from the home. When young people do go missing, they return within a short space of time.

The registered manager and deputy manager review and analyse the progress that young people make. This enables them to see patterns and trends in young people's behaviour and act quickly should they need to.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The registered manager is experienced and shows commitment to the young people and staff in the home. The deputy manager who supports her is equally dedicated.

The staff team is well established. Many of the staff members have worked at the home for many years, providing the young people with stable and consistent care.

The registered manager advocates for the young people, in particular ensuring that they have received education. She has questioned and challenged the company's decision to close the school that the young people attended. Despite the frustrations this has caused for all involved, she has continued to prioritise the young people's educational needs.

Staff working in the home feel supported by the management team. Staff are well trained, and the registered manager provides development opportunities to allow staff to progress and develop their skills and knowledge.

Information about this inspection

Inspectors have looked closely at the experiences and progress of children and young people. Inspectors considered the quality of work and the differences made to the lives of children and young people. They watched how professional staff work with children and young people and each other and discussed the effectiveness of help and care provided. Wherever possible, they talked to children and 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 whom it is trying to help, protect and look after.

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: SC020576

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Castle Homes Care Ltd

Registered provider address: 80 Hammersmith Road, London W14 8UD

Responsible individual: Shelley Whiting

Registered manager: Deborah Bassett

Inspector

Lisa O'Donovan, social care inspector

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