

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC020576
Inspector	Jo Stephenson
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

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	POST VACANT
Date of last inspection	29/10/2014

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

The home was last inspected in October 2014 and was judged to be Outstanding. No requirements or recommendations were raised at that time. The service has continued to ensure that young people receive excellent care and support. Since the last inspection, young people have made significant and sustainable progress in all areas of their development. For example, some young people are now spending unsupervised time in the local community, socialising with friends and researching future employment opportunities. This supports young people to develop their social skills and take responsibilities for their behaviours. One young person said, 'I feel like I've really grown up. I am making more decisions for myself and I'm making the right decisions.'

Young people are safe and say they feel safe in the home. Staff regularly review and revise individual risk assessments, internal support plans and behaviour plans. Young people are consulted with regarding the content of these plans. Their wishes and opinions are central to care planning processes in the home. Young people say they are involved in decisions regarding their care, future accommodation options and education placements. Furthermore, all young people regularly participate in therapy sessions to address their behaviours and identify strategies to promote their safety and the safety of others. Young people say these sessions are 'helpful and useful' and allow them to move forward with their lives.

Since the last inspection, there have been no incidents of physical restraint. Young people enjoy excellent relationships with staff and each other. They are consistently encouraged to take responsibility for their own behaviours. Incidents of unacceptable or risk taking behaviours are rare. There have been no missing from home events since the last inspection. Young people confirm they understand how to make a complaint and are confident that any concerns they raise will be immediately addressed and actioned. The Registered Manager has revised the

complaints procedures to personalise this for each young person. Young people say this helps them to understand who they can go, outside of the home, to raise any concerns they may have. This improved area of practice promotes young people's safety and welfare. There have been no complaints since the last inspection.

The Registered Manager continues to work in effective partnership with placing authorities, local police, the vulnerable persons unit and other external agencies. Social workers and others praise the commitment of the Registered Manager and the 'excellent communication' with the staff team. Young people benefit from an integrated approach to meeting their bespoke and complex behavioural needs. This ensures that young people make positive progress in all aspects of their development.

Young people make excellent progress in education, taking account of their starting point. All young people have suitable education placements that reflect their individual abilities and learning needs. Staff work in partnership with allocated teaching staff to ensure that young people receive the academic and practical support they need to continue with their education. As a result, young people understand the positive impact education has on their development. One young person said, 'I like my course because it's giving me real job prospects.'

Staff receive regular and effective supervision that evaluates their practice and identifies their learning and development needs. The Registered Manager regularly monitors and evaluates the quality of care provided by the service and positive outcomes for young people. The home's development plan includes feedback from young people, their families and placing authorities. This ensures that the home continues to evolve to meet young people's individual needs. Although the Registered Manager is due to leave this service shortly, the organisation is in the process of recruiting to this position.

Information about this children's home

This privately operated home provides care and accommodation for up to five young people with emotional and/or behavioural difficulties. The home provides a specialist service to young people who present significant risks to others.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
29/10/2014	Full	outstanding
20/01/2014	Interim	good progress
15/11/2013	Full	good
05/03/2013	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.