

Children's homes - interim inspection

Inspection date	04/01/2016
Unique reference number	SC025695
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home
Registered manager	Agata Dokszeicz
Inspector	Barnaby Dowell

Inspection date	04/01/2016
Previous inspection judgement	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. At the full inspection, the home received a judgement of Good. At this interim inspection, Ofsted judge that it has Sustained effectiveness. The full inspection resulted in two recommendations. The home has addressed both of these effectively. There are no requirements and recommendations resulting from this inspection. Behaviour in the home remains good and there have been no incidents of restraint. Young people continue to remain settled in the home, there has been one reported incident of absconding from the home since March 2015. This helps to promote positive atmosphere where young people engage well with staff. The home has made significant progress in addressing the living environment. This includes new furniture and carpets and the living areas repainted. The home received a new piano following a recent charitable donation that allows staff and young people to enjoy music therapy sessions together. Young people now enjoy time in a refurbished internet/homework room. Photos displayed of the recent home holiday and the Halloween house party help towards a genuine family feeling in the home and young people continue to respond well. One comments, 'The home is really calm now, everyone likes the new stuff and no one has damaged anything.' They are looking forward to contributing to the new memory board, planned for the first floor hallway. Work on developing semi-independence skills has made similar progress. The Registered Manager has developed closer working relationships with the semi-independent provision owned by the home's parent organisation. Managers consulted with young people in the drafting of a revised workbook, which now offers a clear accessible guide. Young people enjoyed these sessions and two recent planned moves on to semi-independence have been more effective. Young people make progress in developing self-esteem. Recently, one resident demonstrated improved confidence by successfully giving a speech to a room of professionals about his experiences of the care system.	

The formal registration for the Registered Manager is completed. The home continues to benefit from her motivation and strong child centred principles. She has successfully accessed new services and initiatives for the home, recently securing funding of individual mentoring support for a further year. Young people engage well with her and she responds to complaints directly and swiftly.

Managers audit files on a regular basis to ensure case recording in the home remains of good quality and that young people are making progress.

Staff morale is high in the home. Well-planned recruitment has developed a young and vibrant team supported and motivated by effective supervision and good training provision.

There is a strong safeguarding culture in the home and staff follow procedures effectively. When concerns arise concerning young people, the Registered Manager is quick to alert professionals and initiate an effective multi-agency response.

Feedback from professionals continues to remain positive. One comments, 'I want to thank the staff team for their extreme hard work and dedication to the young people in your care.' An independent reviewing officer recently commented that social workers are now 'fighting to place young people in the home.'

There is a learning culture in the home promoting regular evaluation and review of practice. Managers support this by liaising with other homes within the organisation to share practice that works well. This helps to develop an understanding of behaviour and build positive relationships with young people.

Young people receive excellent key work and independent advocacy support. One young person recently supported by his advocate, challenged a decision to move from the home. He now remains settled in the home and is achieving well in mainstream education. Regular key work sessions support young people well and enable good links with partner agencies such as schools and therapeutic provisions.

All of the young people in the home are from one placing local authority. This improves the consistency of multi-agency working and enables young people to access a full range of support services quickly.

Information about this children's home

- The provider is a registered childcare charity and housing association that has a number of different services registered with Ofsted. This home provides care and accommodation for up to eight children and young people with emotional and behavioural difficulties.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
22/06/2015	Full	Good
29/12/2014	Interim	Sustained effectiveness
16/06/2014	Full	Good
02/12/2013	Interim	Satisfactory Progress

What the inspection judgements mean

At the interim inspection 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

Inspectors have looked closely at the experiences and progress of children and young people living in the children's home. Inspectors considered the quality of work and the difference adults make to the lives of children and young people. They read case files, watched how professional staff work with children, young people and each other and discussed the effectiveness of help and care given to children and young people. Wherever possible, they talked to children, 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 who it is trying to help, protect and look after.

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.

This 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 Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015 and the *Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards*.

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