

Children's homes - interim inspection

Inspection date	11/11/2015
Unique reference number	SC028868
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home
Registered person	Step-a-Side Company Limited
Registered person address	Step A Side, 29 Market Place, COLEFORD, Gloucestershire, GL16 8AA

Responsible individual	Rachel Carwardine
Registered manager	Lynne Brooks
Inspector	Paul Clark

Inspection date	11/11/2015
Previous inspection judgement	Good
Enforcement action since last inspection	None
This inspection	
issionThe 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 full inspection. At this interim inspection Ofsted judge that it has sustained effectiveness. The home has sustained effectiveness because the majority of the young people who live there have made good progress in comparison with their starting points. Admissions to the home and discharges from the home are well planned and young people are fully consulted about proposed placements. There has been one placement breakdown which occurred because of the possibility of risk to the other young people placed. The Independent Reviewing Officer commented "The home did fantastically with this young person. Although there were some doubts about this placement working, the home sought full information from the hospital where she had been placed previously and this suggested that she could cope in a residential setting. I was particularly impressed by the way that the home arranged a number of overnight stays in advance of this placement and sought the agreement of the girls already placed. It was a worthy effort to provide care for this young person and the home has done well to contain her for this four month period." Placing authorities report good collaborative working with the home, good quality communication and that young people benefit from a nurturing environment. The home is situated in a beautiful and inspiring forest location and the staff work hard to ensure that young people have access to a range of activities both within the home and in the local community. These include, swimming, dancing and horse riding. Young people benefit from safety and security provided by the home. One young person stated "I feel really well looked after and safe here. The staff are great and I get everything I want and I get help with everything." While another said "This is a great home and I feel safe here. I've just started a college course doing hairdressing and I'm loving it."	

Young people are consulted about aspects of day to day living in the home through regular house meetings and from one to one sessions with their key workers. Therefore, young people feel valued and consulted.

Young people do not attend mainstream school but make very good progress with their education. One young person, with the support of staff, has successfully achieved GCSE qualifications and has been able to gain a place at college to do a hairdressing course. Other young people have at least 25 hours per week personal tutoring. The home ensures that all young people have a personal education plan in place, and access to the Pupil Premium further supports their education. This helps young people to maintain educational progress.

The organisation provides each young person with weekly support from a psychologist who also provides skilled input into behaviour management planning. There is excellent liaison with the relevant CAMHS teams, police and placing social workers to ensure that young people's needs are met. One placing social worker commented "I'm very satisfied with this placement and with the level of care. The home keep me fully informed about all events occurring and reports are clearly written."

The registered manager is appropriately qualified and experienced. They are committed to improvement and internal monitoring and independent visiting also helps to drive improvement in the home.

The home has met the requirements and recommendation made at the last inspection and all young people now have personal education plans in place, notifications have sufficient detail, and all young people have at least 25 hours per week education.

Information about this children's home

This children's home is run by a small, locally based, private company, which also operates another children's home in the area. The company also provides domiciliary care services for young people and homes for disabled adults, which are separately regulated and inspected by the Care Quality Commission.

The home currently provides long-term care for a maximum of four young people, who may have emotional or behavioural difficulties.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
02/06/2015	CH - Full	Good
02/02/2015	CH - Interim	improved effectiveness
21/05/2014	CH - Full	Good
08/01/2014	CH - Interim	Good Progress
29/05/2013	CH - Full	Adequate
30/01/2013	CH - Interim	Inadequate Progress
16/10/2012	CH - Full	Adequate
21/02/2012	CH - Interim	Good Progress
24/08/2011	CH - Full	Good
22/02/2011	CH - Interim	Good
10/08/2010	CH - Full	Good
04/03/2010	CH - Interim	Good
31/07/2009	CH - Full	Good
04/03/2009	CH - Full	Good
02/09/2008	CH - Interim	Good
20/03/2008	CH - Full	Good
02/10/2007	CH - Interim	Satisfactory

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

Statutory Requirements

This section sets out the actions which must be taken so that the registered person/s meets the Care Standards Act 2000, Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015 and the *Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards*. The registered person(s) must comply with the given timescales.

Requirement: None	Due date
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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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