

Children's homes - interim inspection

Inspection date	10/03/2016
Unique reference number	SC029504
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home
Registered manager	Katherine Sydenham
Inspector	Caroline Brailsford

Inspection date	10/03/2016
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	
This home was judged good at the last full inspection. At this interim inspection Ofsted judge that it has improved in effectiveness.	
All staff are very passionate about working with young people. They speak very positively and fondly about them, demonstrating respect and commitment to their progress. Where there are new admissions, excellent preparations are made which enable young people to be well cared for. One young person reflected on their admission and said that their first impression of the care was 'good'. They were pleased that staff had been to see them at their previous care home. They also reported that the welcome pack was helpful. They like the fact that it contains staff photographs. This assists young people to know what to expect, so that they can settle in more quickly. Young people are only admitted if management genuinely believe they can make a positive difference to their life. There is an acknowledgement that some young people will not make progress straight away because of their complex situation. For example, some have experienced multiple placements in a short space of time and have complex mental health issues on their arrival. Staff and managers are realistic in their care planning to ensure that progress can be made. The starting point is for the young person to be stabilised in order for them to be able to make progress as soon as possible. One young person reflected on their placement, saying that they are most proud of the fact that they no longer self-harm. This is very significant because this had been a regular occurrence for them before coming to the home. Young people are significantly safer and feel more settled. They are in a good position to make improvements in other aspects in their life, such as their self-esteem and education. Staff are very clear about what they must do to ensure young people's safety. They closely monitor young people when necessary, especially when they are at risk of self-harm. Well trained staff respond swiftly and appropriately to protect young people. However, staff also allow for proportionate risks to be taken. This means that young people can develop their independence skills and enjoy their life.	

For example, young people experience free time to make friends and mix in their community.

Education has a very high profile in the home. Young people who have not accessed education for a while are now accessing bespoke education, which suits their needs extremely well. Education providers are very positive about young people's progress, saying 'they are doing brilliantly here' and 'one young person is doing exceptionally well'.

The single requirement set at the last inspection has been met. Additional support in relation to alcohol misuse has been provided through key working sessions. Young people have engaged well with these sessions. It is very clear that they can share their worries with skilled and dedicated staff who offer good support and advice.

Changes to the management team have taken place and a new deputy manager is in post. Staff report that the change is positive. They say that the newly established management team helps them to enjoy their job more. Managers also report that, 'we are leading the team better'. This has generated further improvements. These include more regular young people's meetings, so that young people have better engagement in issues about the running of their home. Young people know how to express their views and are listened to. This will help them to confidently represent their own views in the future.

The building is well presented and there have been improvements to the décor. Where extensive damage has taken place due to a young person's behaviour, the repairs took place quickly, ensuring that young people live in a pleasant environment.

There are close working relationships with other professionals, such as psychiatrists and therapists, to ensure that young people are appropriately supported. One professional commented on the positive relationships that had been developed by the home saying, 'they do everything they can and work very well with me'. Positive relationships with other professionals ensure that young people get the help they need.

Information about this children's home

The home is privately owned and is registered to care for 4 young people with emotional and behavioural difficulties.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
12/03/2015	Interim	Improved effectiveness
03/12/2014	Full	Good
20/03/2014	Interim	Good 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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