

Children's homes - interim inspection

Inspection date	25/02/2016
Unique reference number	SC033467
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home
Registered person	St Cuthberts Care
Registered person address	St. Cuthberts House, West Road, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE, NE15 7PY

Responsible individual	Sheila Errington
Registered manager	Gail Lamb
Inspector	Colin Imrie

Inspection date	25/02/2016
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 full inspection. At this interim inspection Ofsted judge that it has improved effectiveness. Since the previous inspection the home has discharged two young people and has admitted three children and young people. There have been some changes in staffing, two having left and four new staff have joined the team. The two young people that left, left in very different circumstances. One young person had been at the home for a long term placement, had worked towards a return home and had made this move successfully. They are reported to be doing well and have continued with a successful college placement. The other young person was admitted during the summer and despite making some good progress early on in their placement and despite having excellent college attendance their behaviour deteriorated to such an extent that the disruption caused was beginning to impact negatively on others living at the home. Three children and young people have remained in placement and are all making progress. Two of them are making good progress, they are attending school well and achieving good results. They are both growing up and leading full and active lives with a range of interests and hobbies. One of these young people is very active with a local stables and works with the horses several times a week. One other young person told the inspector that he was 'a different person now' and that sums up his growing maturity quite well. Another young person has become quite isolated and their attendance at school has not improved. This young person is making some progress in relation to their emotional and behavioural difficulties but little progress socially. Staff are working hard to encourage this young person to have a more active social life and to develop more independence skills. Two children and young people have been admitted, one very recently. One young person was a planned admission from a secure children's home and this has been particularly well planned and successful. This young person has really made excellent progress since arriving. They have kept themselves much safer than before, have blossomed socially and have made good progress at school with full attendance. The other young person admitted in an emergency has settled well after a very well handled admission.	

The home is a safe place to live. Staff use very few negative sanctions and rely on positive rewards. They have, with the children and young people, devised and introduced a 'superstars' scheme where children and young people collect positive star rewards and exchange them for agreed rewards. This is working well. Only one physical intervention has been used and this was just a young person being escorted out of the office after they caused some damage.

There have been no child protection incidents and no complaints made. There have been two minor instances of bullying recorded and these were dealt with well by staff. There have been a number of missing from home incidents but these almost all involved the young person discharged after their behaviour became too disruptive.

The registered manager has continued to develop the service. One fairly new member of staff spoken to was particularly positive about his experience of joining the team. He said he had received a really good induction with plenty of training and guidance. He said that both the registered manager and the deputy manager had been particularly supportive. Staff meetings have been productive with a succession of professional visiting speakers giving information and guidance. Staff have also developed some improved recording systems around evaluating the progress made by children and young people.

At the last inspection one requirement was made to improve key work and this has happened. A recommendation was also made to improve working in partnership with local authority workers. There is clear evidence that this has happened as well. There are no requirements or recommendations made at this inspection.

Information about this children's home

The home is run by a charitable organisation and is registered for the care and accommodation of up to seven children with emotional and/or behavioural difficulties (EBD).

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
04/08/2015	CH - Full	Good
23/03/2015	CH - Interim	improved effectiveness
16/02/2015	CH - Full	Good
21/01/2014	CH - 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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