

Children's homes – Interim inspection

Inspection date	10/11/2017
Unique reference number	SC033657
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home
Registered manager	Jenny Thwaites
Inspector	Jamie Richardson

Inspection date	10/11/2017
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 judges that it has sustained effectiveness. Since the last inspection, one young person has moved out of this home, due to the conflicting needs of the young people. The acting manager exhausted every option to try to help the young people live together. He made the difficult decision to end one young person's placement. The staff team supported the young person to move on positively. The acting manager has reviewed the admissions procedures to prevent this from happening again. The young people who move into this home settle quickly, due to positive planning and staged transitions. Despite some unrest between the young people, they continue to make good progress in all areas of their development. They experience a range of activities on a daily basis that help them to structure their time positively; this improves their life experience. They continue to learn a range of skills, such as cooking and cleaning, which will prepare them well for later life. The acting manager carries out effective monitoring of the progress that the young people make. This enables him to identify when the young people need extra support. When necessary, he works closely with other services, such as the police, youth offending services and therapists, to make sure that the young people receive the help they need. The acting manager's monitoring reports successfully analyse the areas of strength and the areas he wishes to develop. This is helping him to focus improvements, and meets a recommendation set at the last inspection. The external visitor's reports lack analysis of safeguarding issues. This potentially limits the improvement of safeguarding practice. This has not fully met the recommendation set at the last inspection. Incidents of physical intervention are rare. When physical intervention is used, it is a last resort and takes place for the minimum time necessary. In line with regulations, the manager quickly notifies the regulatory body of any significant incidents. This enables the regulatory body to have effective oversight of safeguarding practice.	

The acting manager deals with complaints effectively. He keeps all parties informed throughout the process. As a result, the young people are happy with the outcome and they feel that the manager and the staff team listen to their concerns.

Information about this children's home

- This children's home is operated by a local authority. It provides care for up to four children or young people who have emotional and/or behavioural difficulties.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
11/07/2017	Full	Good
13/12/2016	Full	Requires improvement
11/10/2016	Full	Inadequate
22/02/2016	Interim	Improved effectiveness

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

Recommendations

To improve the quality and standards of care further the service should take account of the following recommendation:

- Any individual appointed to carry out visits to the home as an independent person must make a rigorous and impartial assessment of the home's arrangements for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the home's care. ('Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards', page 65, paragraph 15.5)

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 differences that 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 whom 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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