

Children's homes - Interim inspection

Inspection date	18/03/2016
Unique reference number	SC034083
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home
Registered person	Cumbria County Council
Registered person address	Organisational Development, The Courts, English Street, CARLISLE, CA3 8NA

Responsible individual	Susan Butcher
Registered manager	Caroline Reid
Inspector	Elaine Clare

Inspection date	18/03/2016
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 full inspection. At this interim inspection, Ofsted judge that it has improved effectiveness. Good progress has been made since the last full inspection in September 2015. The one recommendation from the previous inspection is met and sanctions are more restorative in nature. The home has improved its referral and admission process. Impact risk assessments show better consideration to the needs of existing residents when new referrals are considered. Both staff and professionals commented on how this improved the ability of the home to manage young people safely and give them the attention they need to make positive progress. The Registered Manager has completed an assessment of the location of the home. This evidences the local networks the home has built with safeguarding and support services and shows knowledge of where to source appropriate services. It also identifies local risks and the actions staff can take to reduce such risks for young people. The home provides a homely and welcoming environment where young people feel safe and secure. The home is comfortable, well decorated and well furnished. The home was taking delivery of new bedroom furniture which the young people were looking forward to receiving. The young people in placement are making excellent progress from their starting points. For example, all young people attend educational provision and one young person has improved their attendance significantly. Incidents where young people are missing from the home have significantly reduced in this home. While part of this is attributable to the mix of young people in placement, it is also down to the hard work and impact of staff and managers. For example, thinking more carefully about matching and ensuring detailed risk assessments help staff to manage this risk. Staff training in areas such as child sexual exploitation helps staff to understand risks in the community. One young person says, 'It feels homely, I don't feel the need to go off and go missing.'	

Young people are more engaged in key work sessions and residents meetings. They have choices in activities and although they are of an age where they mainly want to make their own choices, they have enjoyed a variety of options such as holidays, a trip to Alton Towers and more regular trips to a youth project, a music centre and boxing matches.

Young people have improved behaviours, significantly allowing a reduction to more relaxed staffing ratios and continued good behaviours. For example, staff say one young person is listening more and does not get so upset over trivial issues. There is a reported decrease in angry outbursts and young people can regulate behaviour more quickly with support.

The home works well with parents, supporting their role and encouraging positive contact. They maintain good contact with previous residents, for example inviting them for Christmas dinner and a shopping trip to a nearby city.

Risk assessments are thorough and have identified potential mental health issues, prompting appropriate referrals to support vulnerable young people. The home also advocates well for young people, ensuring that their voice is being heard.

Independent monitoring of the home identifies areas for improvement and allows the management team to work on improving the service. The Registered Manager has completed a review of the home, which shows a good understanding of service provision and what needs to improve.

Information about this children's home

This Local Authority owned home is registered for six children and young people with emotional and/or behavioural and learning difficulties. The Statement of Purpose details the age range of children and young people from 12 to 17 years of age.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
22/09/2015	Full	Good
12/02/2015	Interim	improved effectiveness
30/09/2014	Full	Adequate

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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Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

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