

## Children's homes – Interim inspection

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|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Inspection date</b>             | <b>13/03/2017</b>                                                                     |
| <b>Unique reference number</b>     | <b>SC035499</b>                                                                       |
| <b>Type of inspection</b>          | <b>Interim</b>                                                                        |
| <b>Provision subtype</b>           | <b>Children's home</b>                                                                |
| <b>Registered provider</b>         | <b>East Riding of Yorkshire Council</b>                                               |
| <b>Registered provider address</b> | <b>County Hall, Cross Street,<br/>Beverley, East Riding of<br/>Yorkshire HU17 9BA</b> |

|                               |                      |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Responsible individual</b> | <b>Pamela Allen</b>  |
| <b>Registered manager</b>     | <b>Suzanna Hills</b> |
| <b>Inspector</b>              | <b>Simon Morley</b>  |

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| <b>Inspection date</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <b>13/03/2017</b> |
| <b>Previous inspection judgement</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <b>Good</b>       |
| <b>Enforcement action since last inspection</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <b>None</b>       |
| <b>This inspection</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                   |
| <p><b>The effectiveness of the home and the progress and experiences of children and young people since the most recent full inspection</b></p> <p>This home was judged <b>good</b> at the full inspection. At this interim inspection, Ofsted judges that it has <b>improved effectiveness</b>.</p> <p>The manager and staff are constantly making the home a better place. Consequently, young people's experiences and progress improve. The manager carefully plans admissions to the home in conjunction with the local authority. This reduces the risks of potential negative impact, as young people are matched effectively with those already living at the home. There is a much calmer and more settled environment compared to the last inspection.</p> <p>Young people benefit from additional access to counselling services to help to improve their emotional well-being. This is in addition to local child and adolescent mental health services, and gives young people an alternative. The counsellor visits the home and is more of a familiar and friendly face to young people, and this encourages them to engage. Staff provide excellent support to young people to help them to feel emotionally safe and secure. For example, one young person is proud of her own safety plan, which she has designed and developed. Staff are thoughtful and sensitive in implementing this. In addition, there are formal risk assessments completed for all young people in relation to child sexual exploitation and other vulnerability factors, such as missing from home and risk of self-harm. These form the basis for regular discussion between staff and young people about what is worrying, what is working well and what needs to happen to address any concerns. This is effective in helping young people to be safer. There is national recognition for the high quality of safety planning that staff undertake.</p> <p>The frequency at which young people are missing from the home or are absent without permission is much lower. When these incidents do occur, staff are good at ensuring that young people return safely. Staff are committed to disrupting any external negative influences from the local and wider community. They have made strong links with the police and local authority, and this well-developed partnership working helps to keep young people safe.</p> <p>Staff are clear and consistent in their expectations and boundaries in regard to appropriate behaviour. They are successful in encouraging young people to behave well. There are times when young people's emotions get the better of them. Staff are firm, sensitive and understanding in their response, and engage young people</p> |                   |

in discussions about how to make better choices. Consequently, young people become more resilient and benefit from the positive role models around them.

All young people attend an educational setting. There is a strong expectation that they will attend from the staff and in the routine of the home. Encouragement from staff to organise themselves and practical support such as lifts help young people to improve their attendance and achieve well. Young people benefit from having a dedicated study room to undertake homework and study for exams.

Staff maintain an ethos of supporting and rewarding positive effort, and young people respond well to this culture within the home. This extends to the 'healthy stars' programme. Young people undertake more exercise as part of their health plans. This includes going to the gym, circuit training in the garden and organised runs, such as the Humber Bridge 5k run.

The manager has introduced a new assessment system to support young people to become more independent. This gives young people an additional qualification, as well as developing their skills and knowledge. Links with the local authority help young people to benefit from additional input, such as preparation for interview skills and access to a trainer flat. Young people use this flat to test out their readiness for independent living. Once they have moved on, young people continue to receive support from staff to help to promote a successful transition.

Good links with the local authority are giving young people better opportunities to have a wide choice of leisure activities. There is more information for them and staff to plan different activities. This is a new initiative that cannot be fully evaluated at this time.

Young people have a good say in what happens in the home and decisions about their care. They rate the home highly, and one young person who moved out wrote to the staff saying that it was the best place at which she had ever lived.

The quality of monitoring by the manager and an independent visitor is robust, and contributes to promoting the welfare and safety of young people. There is a strong focus on continuous improvement. Feedback from young people directly influences this, and the manager is planning to increase the levels of feedback from their parents and social workers to improve this process.

## Information about this children's home

This local authority home is registered to provide care and accommodation for up to six children who have emotional and/or behavioural difficulties.

## Recent inspection history

| Inspection date | Inspection type | Inspection judgement    |
|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| 13/06/2016      | Full            | Good                    |
| 29/03/2016      | Interim         | Improved effectiveness  |
| 03/06/2015      | Full            | Good                    |
| 25/02/2015      | Interim         | Sustained effectiveness |

## **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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