

Children's homes – Interim inspection

Inspection date	29/03/2017
Unique reference number	SC039038
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home
Registered manager	Ranjit Bains
Inspector	Catherine Honey

Inspection date	29/03/2017
Previous inspection judgement	Outstanding
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 outstanding at the full inspection. At this interim inspection Ofsted judges that it has sustained effectiveness. Children and young people continue to thrive and make excellent progress as a result of living here. They have a strong sense of belonging. This is evident in their relaxed attitude when they come home from school. They feel comfortable in the company of staff. As a result, children and young people continue to make excellent progress across all areas of their development. This is significantly enhanced due to the longevity of their placements, which enables them to enjoy warm, trusting relationships with a stable staff team. At the last inspection, two recommendations were made. Both have been addressed. Communal areas downstairs are no longer locked at night time. This ensures that children and young people can access rooms in their own home should they wish too. An extensive redecoration was being carried out during the inspection, and works to improve the garden are due to start imminently. The management team is pursuing other improvements to the home such as an IT suite and lift. These improvements will help ensure that the home and garden meet the needs of children and young people now and in the future. There are excellent professional relationships and partnership working with parents, carers and the different agencies involved in children and young people's lives. A social work team manager commented about the home, 'It's all really positive. They are dynamic in their care. They are very good at facilitating contact and very good at consulting with young people. I can't fault it.' A parent said, 'The staff are brilliant. My child is very settled and happy. My child has come on so well. There is not as much self-harm, and communication skills are better. Everything that pops up, they are well on it.' Members of staff have an excellent understanding of young people's individual and specific needs. They are highly sensitive to young people's emotional health needs. For instance, in agreement with all the important people involved in a young person's life, a piece of life story work is being sensitively and thoughtfully planned to help one young person understand their background. Preparation for the work has been extensive, with thorough research being undertaken, as well as staff seeking advice from mental health practitioners and experts. Some members of	

staff are also undertaking additional training in attachment theories to improve the way that they support young people.

The safety of young people is a priority. The home takes appropriate and decisive action, and liaises well with external agencies to safeguard and protect young people in the event of any incident of concern. Following a review of the management of a recent allegation, areas for improvement were identified. Consequently, safeguarding and incident management protocols are now considered in more depth at team meetings, and staff recording in daily logs has improved. This demonstrates how the management team ensures that staff skills remain up to date.

The manager and management team are committed to the home's ongoing development. Monitoring of the home continues to be robust and enables the staff to explore new ways of working. For example, staff are currently taking part in training in autism awareness, which they intend to use to improve children's and young people's care plans. The impact of this training will be monitored by managers over the forthcoming months to judge its effectiveness.

Information about this children's home

This home is owned by a local authority and registered to provide care to seven children and young people who have learning disabilities.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
13/12/2016	Full	Outstanding
15/03/2016	Interim	Sustained effectiveness
14/07/2015	Full	Outstanding
24/03/2015	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 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 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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