

## Children's homes - interim inspection

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|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Inspection date</b>             | <b>05/01/2017</b>                                         |
| <b>Unique reference number</b>     | <b>SC039087</b>                                           |
| <b>Type of inspection</b>          | <b>Interim</b>                                            |
| <b>Provision subtype</b>           | <b>Children's home</b>                                    |
| <b>Registered provider</b>         | <b>Care Afloat Ltd.</b>                                   |
| <b>Registered provider address</b> | <b>158 Birkrig, Skelmersdale,<br/>Lancashire, WN8 9HP</b> |

|                               |                         |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Responsible individual</b> | <b>Michael Fletcher</b> |
| <b>Registered manager</b>     | <b>Carol McKenna</b>    |
| <b>Inspector</b>              | <b>Mark Kersh</b>       |

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| <b>Inspection date</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <b>05/01/2017</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 judge that it has <b>improved effectiveness</b>.</p> <p>The registered manager and staff continue to work effectively together to embed systems and to provide good, reliable care to the young person accommodated in this service. Following the last inspection there has been one planned discharge and one planned admission.</p> <p>The registered manager has made positive progress in addressing the requirement and recommendation set at the last inspection. In particular, she has improved the statement of purpose document and forwarded the updated version to Ofsted. This ensures factual information is available about the services provided and includes the relevant information about staff responsible for providing these services. Improved recording systems have been implemented in relation to staff supervision and appraisal. Records now show all staff receiving regular supervision and appraisal. This allows staff to reflect on their practice and identify their future training needs.</p> <p>Young people enjoy positive experiences and have good relationships with staff, reporting that they are happy and settled. Staff continue to create new ways of enabling young people to overcome their difficulties of the past and support them to make plans for the future. Particular attention is focussed on on-board safety of the narrow boat and the surrounding waterways. There is a strong emphasis on involving young people in the daily operation of the narrowboat and ensuring they are competent to understand the dangers when operating and passing through locks.</p> <p>Staff provide consistency and continuity of care for the young person; they care, engage well and this results in a calm, friendly and fun atmosphere on-board. Young people quickly build confidence in the team caring for them and are comfortable to talk openly about any matters they may have concerns about. Key worker records detail these conversations that happen on a daily basis. This open dialogue increases the safety of young people living at the home because it enables staff to provide individually tailored packages of support for young people.</p> <p>The service continues to meet the needs of young people who live at the home.</p> |                   |

The well-planned referral procedures ensure that placing authorities, young people and their families have up-to-date, detailed information about what the service can provide. Expectations in relation to young people's behaviour; educational attendance; community based activities; engagement and therapeutic support are also clearly stated. A young person, who was accommodated at the home in November 2016 is very happy with the support she was provided with to help her to settle in at the home.

The service has a good track record in helping young people and as a result young people's initial period of assessment is often extended. This is because young people respond positively to the on-board services and support from their staff. The service enables a young person to reflect and move on from their previous traumatic lives. The organisation has its own registered school, where young people are supported to engage and achieve in small class sizes. Young people who have experienced disruption often engage in planned arrangements to meet their educational needs.

When young people move on, their transition is well planned and co-ordinated. The organisation has registered homes within the community where young people can move to after a period of stability. For some young people, a return to the family home is well co-ordinated in line with agreed plans. These arrangements enable young people to make a successful transition. In some cases ongoing support has helped young people in their early stages of independence. This approach means that young people feel valued and cared for even after they have left.

Staff support young people's relationships with their family and friends effectively. Young people benefit from structured and agreed contact arrangements. Plans are regularly monitored and, when issues have arisen, staff have advocated to ensure that contact plans are amended in a timely way to meet the needs of the young people. This enables young people to maintain positive relationships with their families and friends. Transportation is not an issue and the service has access to fleet vehicles. This ensures arrangements for family and friend visits are maintained even for those young people who live a considerable distance from the locations the narrowboat travels to.

The young person says that she feels safe and they are confident that staff will respond appropriately to any concerns that they may have. There have been no incidents of restraint, absences or missing from care incidents or any significant events for some considerable time. This service provides young people with an opportunity to remove themselves from previous risk taking behaviours and supports them to make significant changes and progress in their lives.

The young person feels listened to and is confident to express her views with staff and at her review of care meetings. Where young people are not able to do this, the registered manager or staff advocate on their behalf. They are not afraid to challenge professionals in order to ensure young people receive the services and support which they are entitled to from their placing authorities.

The registered manager and independent person have effective monitoring systems to review the quality of care and ensure young people are safeguarded. These monitoring reports include a detailed analysis about the impact of care on the young person accommodated. Monitoring of systems and administration records also extends to the organisations head office, as space is limited on-board, and paperwork is regularly moved and secured for confidentiality purposes.

No requirements or recommendations are made at the inspection.

## Information about this children's home

- The service is registered to accommodate one young person with emotional and/or behavioural difficulties.
- The service is privately owned.
- The service provides young people with single occupancy accommodation on a 71-foot narrowboat which travels around the canal network.

## Recent inspection history

| Inspection date | Inspection type | Inspection judgement    |
|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| 17/05/2016      | Full            | Good                    |
| 24/03/2016      | Interim         | Sustained effectiveness |
| 15/06/2015      | Full            | Good                    |
| 13/03/2015      | 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 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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