

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC039087
Inspector	Mark Kersh
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Registered manager	Carol McKenna
Date of last inspection	30/07/2014

Inspection date	13/03/2015
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Previous inspection	good
Enforcement action since last inspection	None.

This inspection

This home was judged good at the last full inspection. At this interim inspection Ofsted judge that it has **sustained effectiveness**.

This is a service which provides young people with an assessment over a 12-week period on board a narrow boat which travels around the canal network. Placements can be extended beyond this period and equally shortened if some young people do not enjoy the experience.

Since the last inspection the narrow boat has been fitted with new windows and a new bathroom. This enhances the experiences of all on board

This organisation has several homes set within local communities some of which young people move onto following their assessment. Other young people through agreements with their placing authorities either move back to their home town or into supported accommodation.

Since the last full inspection in July 2014, the Registered Manager has met the two requirements set at that inspection. These were in relation to staff recruitment files and supervision and training for staff.

All staff who work on this narrow boat now have all of the necessary checks in place as required by regulation. Equally on rare occasions when agency staff are used the same checks apply to them. This protects young people and ensures they are looked after by people suitable to do so. All staff now receive regular supervision from the Registered Manager and further training has been completed by them. This enables them to develop professionally and provide good quality care that meets individual young people's needs.

Young people are positively developing as a direct result of their time spent on this narrow boat. All young people have progressed from their starting point; with outcomes ranging from good to very good. Young people are appropriately placed

and have accepted this provision as a way of changing their previous chaotic lifestyles. They quickly adapt to life on board. One young person says, 'yeah it's different from anywhere I have lived before, staff are pretty good and you get your education as well as activities'.

Since the last inspection, some young people have left the narrow boat and have transferred to homes within the community operated by this organisation. These transitions have been agreed by young people and their placing social workers. Through the duration of placements, staff have demonstrated good levels of dedication and resilience. They have persevered with young people, despite some challenging behaviours. As a result, young people are flourishing.

Placement planning is inclusive of social care, health, education and specialist provisions. This planning and assessment ensures the service can provide care that meets the needs of young people. All placements, whether planned or emergencies, are assessed for health and safety reasons, ensuring young people sign up to the responsibilities and expectations required of them while living on this narrow boat.

Incidents of young people missing from the home are minimal due to the rural locations they travel to along the canal network. If young people do go off board then staff are always curious and follow them, in line with the on-board risk assessments.

Staff do not restrain young people as safety and protection is a high priority, and due to the limited space on board. There are effective behaviour management strategies to manage the behaviour of young people, ensuring the need to restrain is not necessary. There are recording systems in place to record any consequences as well as rewards. Staff implement boundaries and rules consistently, so young people know what is expected of them and they are able to improve their behaviour and learn from their mistakes.

Staff reward and praise positive behaviour through incentive schemes and verbal praise.

The Registered Manager maintains an open and transparent approach to the management of complaints, allegations or disclosures. This minimises the risk of abusive practice and protects young people. Young people say their views are respected and they are listened too. Young people feel safe and say they are safe.

There are systems in place to notify all appropriate authorities of any significant event in relation to young people. 'However', there has been a delay in providing Ofsted with a notification, within the required timescale. As a result a recommendation has been made. The registered Manager agreed to re-send this notification to Ofsted ensuring the regulator has all the necessary information about this incident.

The Registered Manager has a development plan in place which is used to plan and

monitor improvements to the care young people receive. Additionally, she routinely monitors the operation of the narrow boat and evaluates the effectiveness of care provision. Quality assurance processes are further supported by monthly visits from an independent person. This person audits the paperwork and appraises young people and staff. These combined processes identify areas in need of improvement and actions are swiftly implemented. This improves the services provided to young people.

The Registered Manager continues to ensure that the stable and skilled staff team benefit from high levels of support and training. The staff team participate in regular, supervisions and team meetings. Additionally all staff engage in a programme of training which ensures that their mandatory and additional training needs are met. This means the home benefits from a management and staff team who are proactive to promote their professional development and improve outcomes for young people.

Information about this children's home

This home is a 72-foot narrow boat that travels around the canal network. It provides care and accommodation for up to one young person with emotional and/or behavioural difficulties. The home is managed by a private company.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
30/07/2014	Full	good
05/03/2014	Interim	good progress
22/05/2013	Full	adequate
13/02/2013	Full	inadequate

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

Recommendations

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

- ensure a system is in place to notify within 24 hours the persons and appropriate authorities of the occurrence of significant events in accordance with Regulation 30. The system includes what to do where a notifiable event arises at weekends. (NMS 24.1)

What inspection judgements mean

At the interim inspections 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

The purpose of this inspection is to assure children and young people, parents, the public, local authorities and government of the quality and standard of the service provided. The 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 relevant regulations and meets the national minimum standards.

The report details the main strengths, any areas for improvement, including any breaches of regulation, and any failure to meet national minimum standards. The judgements included in the report are made against the framework of inspection for children's homes.