

Children's homes – Interim inspection

Inspection date	05/08/2016
Unique reference number	SC040509
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home
Registered manager	Vicki Blood
Inspector	Anthony Kyem

Inspection date	05/08/2016
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 judge that it has sustained effectiveness. Young people benefit from a highly supportive, caring and nurturing environment where they are kept safe and have a strong sense of personal safety. Staff consistently place the safety of the young people at the centre of their practice, irrespective of the difficulties and challenges they present. They have a good understanding of their specific needs and vulnerabilities and they take appropriate action to address them. Risk-taking behaviours, such as self-harm, drug use and going missing from care for lengthy periods, have reduced considerably, and young people are less likely to suffer actual harm. Significant incidents are reported to those appropriate authorities charged with a duty to protect young people. As a result, young people are effectively safeguarded and protected. Social workers report: 'Young person prior to placement was regularly self-harming and going missing, plus hospital admissions. All this has reduced due to consistent boundaries and care. Close working and communication between staff and social worker ensure that the specific needs of the young person are met and managed. Staff are proactive and address any concerns immediately and raise concerns with social worker and management as appropriate.' Young people benefit from effective support, help and protection. They are protected from abuse and all other forms of significant harm. The use of clear risk assessment and proactive safe working practice promotes the safety and well-being of young people. There have been no complaints, allegations of abuse or restraints since the last inspection. Young people benefit from exceptionally good relationships with staff who promote their needs effectively. These relationships underpin the progress that young people make across all aspects of their welfare, including their physical, social, emotional and behavioural development. Young people benefit from positive role models in staff they trust, can relate to, and learn from. Young people report, 'I really like it here. I really get on with the staff. When I do move on I know that I have still got their support.'	

There were no requirements or recommendations from the last inspection. There have been no placement breakdowns, disruptions or failures since the previous inspection. Young people who have left the home have done so in a well-planned and positive way. There are clear plans in place to ensure that eligible care leavers receive the support they need to make their transitions to adulthood or supported living arrangements.

Young people benefit from a physically safe, appropriately secure, warm, comfortable and homely environment. The home is consistently maintained to a high-quality standard for the young people. The home meets the specific needs and characteristics of the young people, who are actively encouraged and involved in personalising the home. As a result, they develop a strong sense of ownership and belonging. Young people report, 'It's had its ups and downs but I still like it here. I don't want to move.'

Young people benefit from a home that is managed efficiently and effectively. The registered manager monitors the progress that young people make and the staff team prioritise the group's needs and ensure that they benefit from the best possible help and all-round support. They make good use of the home's monitoring activities to improve outcomes for the young people at the home. The manager has an exceptionally good understanding of the home's strengths and weaknesses and they take appropriate action to secure improvement. Combined with the home's independent monitoring activities, there are effective systems for reviewing and improving the standard and quality of young people's care.

There are no breaches in regulation and there are no requirements or recommendations made as a result of this inspection.

Information about this children's home

- The home is registered to provide care and accommodation for up to three young people who may have emotional and/or behavioural difficulties and learning disabilities.
- The home is owned and managed by the local authority.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
23/02/2016	Interim	Sustained effectiveness
03/11/2015	Full	Outstanding
11/03/2015	Interim	Declined in effectiveness
12/09/2014	Full	Outstanding
17/02/2014	Interim	Satisfactory progress

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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