

Children's homes – Interim inspection

Inspection date	15/03/2017
Unique reference number	SC045096
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home
Registered provider	Blackford Education (schools) Ltd
Registered provider address	Blackford House, Blackford, Minehead TA24 8SY

Responsible individual	Alan Wilkes
Registered manager	Lisa Jackson
Inspector	Polly Soper

Inspection date	15/03/2017
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. This home is homely in respect of its layout and personalised touches. For example, photographs of young people and their own personal items provide a homely environment. No requirements or recommendations were made at the last inspection. There have been no significant safeguarding issues since the last inspection. Physical interventions are used on a limited basis. There have been three occasions when such intervention has been required since the last inspection. Learning opportunities for both staff and young people were promoted after each. Behaviour management is based on praise. Therefore, no sanctions are used in order to promote positive behaviour. Recognition of individual achievements and praise is provided in abundance. This has supported young people to progress and build self-esteem. One young person has recently won an award for the significant progress they have made while at the home. Young people are all engaged in full academic timetables. Additional support is also provided, such as extra tutoring for numeracy and literacy. A great deal of extra-curricular activities and opportunities are also provided for young people, including dance club, rugby club, gymnastics, work experience and holidays to the Cornish coast and abroad. Young people's needs in all areas are carefully considered within care planning. Planning for when young people move on is also carefully considered in order to ensure that any negative impact of for young people is minimised. Remaining in contact with young people who have left the home is also promoted, which supports their ongoing emotional development. All of the young people living at the home are making significant progress in respect of their individual needs. Young people seen during this inspection presented as very happy in their environment and did not wish to make any changes to their home.	

Information about this children's home

This home is owned by a private company. It is registered to provide care and accommodation for up to four young people. The care packages usually include the provision of education at the company's school.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
10/05/2016	Full	Outstanding
15/12/2015	Interim	Sustained effectiveness
09/09/2015	Full	Outstanding
16/03/2015	Interim	Declined in 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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