

Children's homes - interim inspection

Inspection date	20/01/2016
Unique reference number	SC051513
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home
Registered person	Nottinghamshire County Council
Registered person address	Nottinghamshire County Council, County Hall, Loughborough Road, West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 7QP

Responsible individual	Vonny Senogles
Registered manager	Diane Beckitt
Inspector	Cathey Moriarty

Inspection date	20/01/2016
Previous inspection judgement	Good
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 Good at the full inspection. At this interim inspection Ofsted judge that it has sustained effectiveness. Young people, living in this children's home, have a range of complex needs and all have made progress from their starting points. At the time of this interim inspection, there has been continued progress for some young people and slow progress for others. There has been a reduction in incidents where young people are missing or absent without authority, reduced self-harming behaviour, and less anti-social behaviour in the community. There have been no physical interventions since 2014 because staff use de-escalation and distraction techniques effectively. There has been a change in practice regarding the use of sanctions since the previous inspection. The manager reports that there will be close monitoring of the rationale, types of sanctions, and impact, to ensure it is an effective behaviour management response. There has been slow progress for some young people, as a result of an increase in challenging behaviours, and emerging risks. Some of the young people have raised concerns about the impact of the behaviours of other young people to their care. This demonstrates their attachment to the home. The manager has reflected on this and has requested multi-agency reassessment of needs and risks, where appropriate. All of the young people have education arrangements in place and appropriate plans. One young person's needs are currently being assessed as part of the education and health care plan process. Young people are making progress in their education and as a result they are growing in confidence and engaging in discussions regarding transition to training and employment. Some are benefiting from voluntary work experience and work placements. One young person has been offered an apprenticeship as a result of positive work experience.	

All young people are supported to develop and maintain positive relationships with their family and friends. One young person has regular overnight stays with friends and young people's friends visit the home. One young person, for whom contact has previously been complicated, has been supported to attend and enjoy a significant family event. Good life story information is maintained by young people and staff. A young person said: 'Staff have helped me to have a better relationship with my family. I enjoy my contact visits because we are able to have them in a nicer place now.' A social worker said: 'Staff continue to risk assess and work with this young person sensitively. They have been able to have more contact with friends due to the work the staff have done and this has made a difference.'

There are good and developing partnership working arrangements. A specialist nurse from the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service visits and provides consultation on a monthly basis. Staff work closely with local police, the youth offending service, the LAC nurse and education providers. There have been visits to the home from specialist services providing preventative advice regarding sexual health, smoking, and substance misuse. As a result, there are good multi-agency packages responding to assessed needs.

The recommendations set at the previous inspection have been partly met. The home has had significant refurbishment and is a comfortable, homely environment. There is an ongoing refurbishment programme and, where there has been damage within the home, this has been repaired promptly. Records of the dispensing of medication have improved in some respects. However, this inspection identified a shortfall, in that young people's records, particularly in respect of changes to medication needs, were not up to date.

The management team ensure that there are a range of mechanisms in place to monitor and report on the quality of care provided. There is a detailed development plan to strengthen practice and the delivery of the service.

Information about this children's home

The home, which is a local authority provision, provides accommodation for four young people with emotional and behavioural difficulties.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
30/09/2015	Full	Good
12/03/2015	Interim	Improved effectiveness
23/07/2014	Full	Good
03/02/2014	Interim	Satisfactory progress

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

Statutory Requirements

This section sets out the actions which must be taken so that the registered person/s meets the Care Standards Act 2000, Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015 and the *Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards*. The registered person(s) must comply with the given timescales.

Requirement	Due date
The registered person must maintain records ("case records") for each child which include the information and documents listed in Schedule 3 in relation to each child; and are kept up to date. (Regulation 36 (1) (a, b))	29/02/2016

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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