

Children's home - interim inspection

Inspection date	05/01/2017
Unique reference number	SC051947
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home
Registered provider	After Care (NW) Limited
Registered provider address	31-33 Hoghton Street, Southport, Merseyside PR9 0NS

Responsible individual	Timothy Blundell
Registered manager	Rosie Ingham
Inspector	Marina Tully

Inspection date	05/01/2017
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 improved effectiveness. Young people benefit from consistent care and support, which enables them to make positive progress in all aspects of their lives. Staff fully understand young people's individual needs and are sufficiently trained to care for them. As a result, young people feel happy, safe and content. This is reflected in young people's comments, 'It's decent living here and it's homely', 'It doesn't feel like a care home, everyone is normal and laid back, staff really care about us' and 'I'd give it ten out ten no messing!' Since the last inspection, a young person has successfully moved on to independent living. Staff fully supported him with this transition and ensured that he developed the necessary skills, such as cooking and budgeting, as well as being emotionally equipped to live independently. Staff listened to this young person's views and helped him to play an active role in the planning of his transition. As a result, he achieved his goal to return to his home area, near to his family and friends. Due to staff's genuine care and effective support, this young person's move to independence has been a positive experience. Similarly, staff ensure that young people who move into the home are suitably matched to the service and other young people living in the home. Staff invest their time in introducing young people to the home's routines and the local area, as well as getting to know their likes and interests. Consequently, when young people move into the home they settle quickly and trusting relationships with staff are nurtured from the very start. Young people's social workers are complimentary of the support and care provided to young people. This is evident in a social workers written feedback to the provider, 'I will like to say a very big thank you to you and all your members of staff who managed to work with our young person, effortlessly. It has been such a pleasure working with you.' Staff have aspirations for young people. Good routines, consistent support, encouragement and guidance is helping young people to succeed in their chosen vocations. For example, staff supported a young person to overcome the barriers to his learning and as a result, he left school with three GCSE's and four awards, including an award for student of the year. This placed him in a strong position to	

pursue his chosen college course, which he thoroughly enjoys.

Staff and young people enjoy activities together, such as short breaks away to European cities. These opportunities are helping young people to develop positive relationships with staff and learn about different countries and cultures.

The team work effectively to protect young people from harm. Incidents of missing from home have significantly decreased. This is down to good partnership working with young people, their family, friends and other safeguarding professionals.

Young people are well supported to keep in touch with their families and friends. Some are benefitting from increased contact with their family, as well as having sleepovers with their friends. This enables young people to maintain appropriate attachments with people who are important to them. Furthermore, it is helping to decrease incidents of missing because young people are having their contact increased in a safe and planned way.

The home continues to be managed effectively by an experienced and committed registered manager. She has made improvements to the home and has a clear understanding of the home's strengths and weaknesses. Furthermore, she demonstrates enthusiasm and capacity to continue to drive the service forward. All of the actions raised at the last inspection have been addressed and leadership within the home has clearly strengthened.

Information about this children's home

This privately owned children's home provides care and accommodation for up to two young people who have emotional and behavioural difficulties.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
04/05/2016	Full	Good
15/02/2016	Interim	Sustained effectiveness
03/11/2015	Full	Requires improvement
12/03/2015	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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