

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC053145
Inspector	Stella Lovie
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Registered person	Partners in Care
Registered person address	Rouse House, 2 Wyther Lane Kirkstall Leeds West Yorkshire LS5 3BT
Responsible individual	Luiz Miguel Guilherme
Registered manager	Violet Dennison
Date of last inspection	27/11/2014

Inspection date	11/03/2015
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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 **improved effectiveness**.

The home was last inspected in November 2014. It received an overall effectiveness judgement of good. One requirement to improve was made in relation to holiday risk assessments in respect of provision of suitable accommodation for young people and staff. There is good evidence that this issue has been dealt with robustly. For example, there is a plan in place to go on holiday this year to Portugal and the accommodation needs of the young people and staff have been appropriately addressed. The improvement plan from the last inspection also included four recommendations. These have all been met at the point of the interim inspection. This demonstrates that the manager learns from inspection activity and improves practice accordingly.

Young people's outcomes have improved considerably since the last inspection. They now demonstrably make good progress and achieve in their learning and development, taking into account their needs and starting points. They are fully engaged with their education to the point of some young people taking on additional work to improve their grades. They have excellent attendance and are progressing well in line with their abilities and length of time in the home. Young people are encouraged to learn how to regulate their emotions and acquire reflective skills to make sense of what has happened to them. As a result, they learn better control of impulses and difficult emotions so they are more equipped for successful adult life. This means they choose not to offend, mis-use drugs or alcohol, and do not go missing. As one social worker confirmed: 'My young person came into the home with very challenging behaviours. He has made a lot of progress since being there. He has come a long way. He himself says that the home has given him the boundaries and sense of safety that he wanted.'

Young people report a strong sense of safety in the home and the local area. As one young person said: 'Before I came here I'd been told loads of bad things about care

homes. But I really like it here. The staff are nice. It's particularly good that they don't hold grudges after there's an argument. I want to stay here – I love it here! I've no complaints at all. I feel very safe here and in the local village. The most scary thing I've encountered is a sheep and mud.' A strong focus on the protection of young people means that their safety and well-being remain central to the running of the home. There are highly effective and well-embedded working relationships with a range of local safeguarding agencies. For example, the local police support officers play an active role in educating young people about how to keep safe.

Leadership and management arrangements remain strong. All new staff are now enrolled on courses to obtain their professional qualifications. This gives them information, skills and additional confidence to undertake the role effectively. Managers provide regular supervision of a good quality and every member of staff has an annual appraisal. Young people contribute their views to this process. Consequently staff are well-supported to develop professionally so that they can deliver a high standard of care. The physical environment remains warm and welcoming. It is generally very well maintained. This promotes young people's sense of well-being. One minor shortfall is identified in relation to some missing doors and drawers inside the fridge and freezer which impacts on the storage of food. However, this in no way compromises young people's welfare.

To conclude, the home can clearly demonstrate improved effectiveness in the care provided to young people.

Information about this children's home

This privately run home is registered to accommodate three children or young people of either gender. It is registered to provide care for young people who may have behavioural or emotional difficulties. Lengths of stay may be short, medium or long term.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
27/11/2014	Full	good
06/03/2014	Interim	good progress
04/07/2013	Full	adequate
25/03/2013	Interim	good progress

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 that the home is well maintained, with specific regard to replacing doors and drawers in the fridge and freezer. (NMS 10.3)

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.