

Children's homes – Interim inspection

Inspection date	16/03/2017
Unique reference number	SC053145
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home
Registered provider	Partners in Care
Registered provider address	Rouse House, 2 Wyther Lane, Kirkstall, Leeds, West Yorkshire LS5 3BT

Responsible individual	Sonia Bennett
Registered manager	Violet Dennison
Inspector	Charlie Bamber

Inspection date	16/03/2017
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 improved effectiveness. The home continues to provide high quality individualised care resulting in sustained positive progress for the young people placed. Managers and staff offer warmth, nurture, consistency and positive role modelling, all of which contribute to young people investing in their home and their relationships. Young people successfully continue to attend their education placements where previously they have disengaged and not attended. The home maintains regular communication with young people's schools to ensure that information about their behaviour or incidents is shared. Young people are supported to maintain links with their family and friends. Where young people struggle with family relationships, detailed key work and support helps them understand their part in the dynamic, and helps to restore relationships. Some young people are supported through grief and loss, both formally through bereavement counselling and informally through speaking to staff. Young people make good progress in moving towards independence and enjoy spending time with friends in the community. One young person regularly attends cadets, including cadet camps, which provides him with opportunities to develop independence and social skills. Serious behavioural incidents are reducing in frequency. Young people become better able to self-regulate and de-escalate because they experience stability, consistency, advice and support in respect of their behaviour. The home benefits from receiving regular advice and guidance regarding behaviour management from a psychologist employed by the company. One serious incident, where the police had to be contacted to assist in managing a young person's behaviour, was only notified to the regulator after a period of delay. This had been recognised by the manager and a notification was subsequently made. Young people's risks are well managed and risk-taking behaviours reduce over time. One young person has significantly reduced his property damage risk. Risks are actively addressed with young people, and they are supported through	

education and advice to reduce their risks. The frequency of restrictive physical intervention is declining, which shows that young people can better regulate their emotions. Episodes of missing from home are less frequent, which indicates that young people are increasingly settled.

The home maintains a well-balanced staff team which includes both female and male staff. This is particularly important to one young person in respect of his preference and his need for positive male role models. The staff team is now mainly qualified to NVQ level 3, with some staff having almost completed the qualification. Shifts are organised so that there is always at least one qualified member of staff caring for the young people.

Transitions into and out of the home are managed well. One young person moved out of the home with a great deal of support and preparation. She has continued to receive telephone support following her move, which has helped to make her new placement successful. Referrals to the home are considered in great detail in respect of the potential impact on the current residents. Managers are clear that they will only admit a young person who will not have a detrimental impact on the young people already placed.

Former residents of the home regularly make contact to inform staff of their progress, and many have thanked staff for their support and positive impact on their lives.

The home works in close partnership with external agencies. Staff communicate regularly with young people's placing authorities and work well alongside children and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS), a psychologist, health services and education to ensure that young people's needs are met across all areas. The home also consults with agencies and young people's families about their views of the home, seeking feedback to identify any areas for improvement. The evaluation obtained has been consistently positive.

Internal and external monitoring systems are very effective. The manager values the comments and observations from external monitoring, finding the input to be helpful and supportive in developing the home and making further improvements. Internal monitoring is effective and efficient and identifies any issues requiring remedial action, which are quickly addressed to promote improvement in practice.

Information about this children's home

This privately run home is registered to accommodate three children who may have behavioural and/or emotional difficulties. Placements may be short-, medium- or long-term.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
27/09/2016	Full	Outstanding
23/03/2016	Interim	Improved effectiveness
09/09/2015	Full	Good
11/03/2015	Interim	Improved effectiveness

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

Recommendations

To improve the quality and standards of care further, the service should take account of the following recommendation:

- The registered person should have a system in place so that all serious events are notified, within 24 hours, to the appropriate people. The system should cover the action that should be followed if the event arises at the weekend or on a public holiday. Notification must include details of the action taken by the home's staff in response to the event. ('Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards', page 63, paragraph 14.13)

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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