

Children's homes - interim inspection

Inspection date	23/03/2016
Unique reference number	SC053145
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 Guilherme
Registered manager	Violet Dennison
Inspector	Charlie Bamber

Inspection date	23/03/2016
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 improved effectiveness. The young people placed at this home benefit from a staff team who offer them a high level of warmth and nurture. Staff have a good understanding of the young people's issues and work well with them to make progress in addressing their areas of concern. Young people are making progress in a number of areas. One young person is benefitting from the structure and boundaries of a cadet's unit whilst another is developing trust on free time and through having access to a smart phone. Where young people are not making good progress the home have identified the issues and met with partner agencies in order to assist the young person to begin to make progress again. Admissions to the home are well planned and even in emergency situations, the manager ensures there is full consideration of whether the home and staff team can meet the young person's needs. There is also consideration of the impact on the other young people resident in the home. One young person has moved on from the home since the last full inspection. The home prepared her well for a planned return to her parent's care and this has been successful. Education is delivered in a variety of ways to young people. One young person, who had been out of school for a lengthy period, is managing to attend school. Another young person is excluded from school but is making much better progress in education now that she is tutored in the home. For young people above the statutory school age, the home work hard to ensure they are meaningfully occupied and challenge the local authority when plans for educating young people are insufficient or not working. The home also challenge placing authorities who do not plan for young people to transition out of the home as they become adults and have assisted one young person to make a complaint. Young people are encouraged to take responsibility for their actions, particularly when they cause damage to the home. They can now accept responsibility and show remorse when their actions have been destructive or threatening. One young	

person has been involved in reparation work in the home and recognises his achievements.

The home works closely in partnership with other agencies involved in the young people's lives. There is a particularly strong relationship with the local police community support team, who provide assistance to the home in returning one young person who has frequent episodes of missing from home. They also come into the home to undertake direct work with young people around various issues. Likewise, other agencies such as Addaction are welcomed into the home to undertake direct work and develop awareness of young people around risk.

Although missing from home episodes have significantly increased for one young person there has been robust management of this and multi-agency meetings have been convened to discuss the appropriateness of the placement and strategies to reduce the missing episodes. This ensures that the young person receives a co-ordinated response and the risks are minimised.

Physical interventions are used on occasions to manage very difficult behaviour. These are used appropriately and only after staff have tried other methods to de-escalate young people. Recording of incidents is thorough and young people have the opportunity to express their views through a de-brief. Young people report that physical intervention is used only as a last resort. One area to be further developed is the analysis of any patterns or trends of physical intervention, which may give rise to plans to reduce the frequency, or provide insight into the reason why young people's physical interventions may be increasing.

The home is welcoming and provides a homely environment for young people. They personalise their bedrooms and are supported to maintain their rooms to a good standard. A requirement in respect of hygiene and safety of bedrooms made at the previous inspection has been met.

Internal monitoring systems are in place and are used well to identify any areas which need addressing. Additional areas for monthly monitoring have been included in the manager's checks to ensure that Looked After Child review minutes and personal education plans are on file for all young people. Where these documents are not sent by the placing authorities the home sends e-mails to chase them in order to ensure they have copies of the most up to date plan for each young person. Some issues have been raised by the provider about the quality of external monitoring reports and deficits in their identification of areas for improvement. This has been addressed through a change of independent visitor and the home are anticipating an improvement in this area.

Information about this children's home

This privately run home is registered to accommodate three children or young people of either gender between the ages of eight and 17. 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
09/09/2015	Full	Good
11/03/2015	Interim	Improved effectiveness
27/11/2014	Full	Good
06/03/2014	Interim	Good Progress

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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