

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC061810
Inspector	Elaine Clare
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Registered person	Cumbria County Council
Registered person address	Organisational Development The Courts, English Street CARLISLE CA3 8NA
Responsible individual	Lynette Marjorie Burns
Registered manager	Hilary Southward
Date of last inspection	24/06/2014

Inspection date	09/02/2015
Previous inspection	adequate
Enforcement action since last inspection	none

This inspection

This home was judged adequate at the last full inspection. At this interim inspection Ofsted judge that it has **improved effectiveness**.

At the last inspection carried out in June 2014 the home had an overall judgement of adequate and seven recommendations were made. The provider has considered the recommendations made; young people are given further opportunities to improve on their independence skills including cooking for themselves and making their own way from collage. Young people going missing from the home have significantly reduced. When young people do go missing reports clearly identify the strategies being used to locate the individual. Young people are encouraged to self-medicate, where a risk assessment is in place. Admissions to the home follow a careful matching process to ensure that the placement can meet the needs of the young person being considered. Shortfalls in staffing and the supervision of the Registered Manager has been addressed.

Young people make good progress in numerous areas of their lives including engaging in education, life skills, accessing and enjoying work experiences. The overall package of care and education enable young people to move forward and focus on adult life post 18 years old. Young people embrace the opportunity to develop independent skills and support in becoming young adults. Professionals say they have no concerns about the provision and a parent stated 'It's good they have not given into him.' And on the staff the parent stated 'very pleasant' and 'easy going.'

Education attendance is excellent with young people moving on from mainstream school to local colleges which offer courses that provide skills for employment post 18 years of age. All young people are positive in accessing the courses and understand that qualifications and skills gained can greatly influence their future lives. Staff fully support all college placements and communicate extremely well with college tutors to ensure appropriate supervision is in place.

Staff provide clear and consistent boundaries and routines while being approachable and supportive. This enables young people to feel safe and to feel they can speak to members of staff about their care and worries, and to reflect of their past behaviours. Young people say they 'talk to me and calm me down.' Incidents of young people going missing have significantly reduced and are currently considered rare. Responses to any young person going missing are quick and robust with all appropriate agencies notified. The local police stated 'there is a good working relationship.' Physical interventions are also rare and, if used, are correctly applied with very good records kept. Staff are extremely well informed of the risks young people may take when out in the community and have strategies in place to ensure they are kept as safe as possible and are properly supervised. Relationships with other professionals, including the missing person's co-ordinator for the police are excellent. The Registered Manager has developed excellent communication systems with all relevant agencies which in turn supports progress and improves experiences for the young people.

Managers and leaders continue to be effective in monitoring the quality of care and professional practice the young people receive; both are of a good standard. Staff have undertaken training in child sexual exploitation and e-safety. This ensures they have a good awareness and can pick up on and respond to changing or concerning behaviours. Where improvements are identified they are addressed across the whole organisation, such as implementing a new care planning system to meet the changing needs of young people

No requirements or recommendations have been made as a result of this inspection.

Information about this children's home

The home is run by the local authority and provides care and accommodation for up to six boys or girls. The home is registered to care for young people with emotional or behavioural difficulties.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
24/06/2014	Full	adequate
03/02/2014	Interim	inadequate progress
18/10/2013	Full	adequate
18/02/2013	Interim	good progress

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.