

Children's homes – Interim inspection

Inspection date	01/02/2017
Unique reference number	SC062288
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home
Registered provider	Educare Adolescent Services Limited
Registered provider address	Venture House, 12 Prospect Business Park, Longford Road, Cannock, Staffordshire, WS11 0LG

Responsible individual	Alan Davies
Registered manager	Tina Morten
Inspector	Louise Whittle

Inspection date	01/02/2017
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 continue to enjoy a stable and secure home life with caring and dedicated staff. The home is currently undergoing extensive building work so that it will be able to accommodate up to four young people. Young people do not feel that this has been disruptive and some, who have an interest in building, have enjoyed having builders on-site, as it has given them the opportunity to observe the work. Enthusiastic staff encourage young people to engage in a range of activities to support their physical and emotional well-being. These include bowling, swimming, playing pool and using the computer. The young people get on well together most of the time and have very positive, trusting relationships with staff. Young people have made significant progress in returning to education after experiencing periods of disengagement and difficulties with managing their emotions, behaviour and relationships. Staff help young people to learn independence skills. This assists in young people in their preparations for future independence and enhances their self-esteem and confidence. The staff are dedicated and sensitive. They listen to young people, support them and help them with all of their needs. Young people regularly attend their young people's meetings, where they can express their views, wishes and feelings. During the meetings, the registered manager gives them feedback on any issues that they have raised. Staff keep young people safe and help them to understand how to keep themselves safe. When young people go missing, staff follow them and work in close collaboration with the transport police. Staff have been highly effective in preventing young people from leaving the area. Incidents and physical interventions have reduced since the last inspection. The registered manager has become increasingly skilled at addressing child sexual exploitation and has been effective in disrupting local child sexual exploitation activity. This has included working closely with the police to put an anti-harboursing order in place for a person who is a known threat to young people. Regular reviews and updates of detailed risk assessments and behaviour management plans ensure that staff are fully aware of the risks to each young person and the appropriate responses that are required in order to keep them safe. Staff understand the vulnerabilities of each	

young person and work with them to help them develop resilience and coping strategies.

The registered manager has been proactive in improving the service even further by making changes to her staff team. This has resulted in a far more cohesive and effective team, which works to maintain clear boundaries and routines for young people and adheres to police procedures. This means that staff provide young people with more consistent care, which enhances their experience and progress. Staff increasingly provide young people with the security that they need in order to focus on their own needs and development. The staff are motivated to work very hard for young people. They encourage young people into education. Staff speak highly of the registered manager and the team; comments included: 'Management is fantastic, the registered manager is there for whatever you need and will support you in everything that you do'; and, 'Other staff are really supportive and they do whatever they can to achieve the right outcomes for young people'. Staff work closely with a wide range of professionals, including a local authority project which supports the most vulnerable young people to return to their families; health and education professionals; local employers; social workers; drug and alcohol services; and the police, regarding child sexual exploitation and radicalisation.

The registered manager's positive response to the previous requirements has led to improved teamwork, more consistent practice and better recording of the work being undertaken by staff.

Information about this children's home

This children's home is part of a large organisation operated by a private company. The home is registered to provide care for up to three young people who have emotional and/or behavioural difficulties or learning disabilities.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
10/05/2016	Full	Good
02/03/2016	Interim	Improved effectiveness
23/09/2015	Full	Requires improvement
04/03/2015	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 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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