

Children's homes - interim inspection

Inspection date	13/03/2016
Unique reference number	SC065789
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home
Registered person	Good Foundations Limited
Registered person address	6 Tower Quays, Tower Road, Birkenhead, Merseyside, CH41 1BP

Responsible individual	Andrew Mannix
Registered manager	Robert Jones
Inspector	Michelle Edge

Inspection date	13/03/2016
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 Registered Manager has taken effective action to meet the requirements and recommendations made at the last inspection. The Statement of Purpose has been updated, and a copy provided to HMCI; A new children's guide has been developed, in consultation with young people. Care plans have been obtained from the local authority for all young people and the Registered Manager has effectively challenge practice issues with other professionals, when there has been a delay in information being provided to support young people's needs; specifically in regards to finding a suitable education provision for young people. Young people benefit from individualised and exceptionally well-planned care, from a committed and enthusiastic staff team and knowledgeable manager. The quality of care provided by the staff team empowers young people to make and sustain excellent progress in all areas of their lives including education, health and contact and continues to develop their identity and confidence. Young people said 'Without the support of the staff I would not have made the progress I have made'; 'I can't thank them (staff) enough, I just wish I had listened to them more about my education, they never gave up.' 'We just get on like family, disagreements, ups and downs but it's really good, I wouldn't change anything.' Some young people have made very good progress educationally, as a result of their stability and support, achieving good grades in national qualifications. Where young people are struggling with their education plan, staff are creative and adapt the plan to meet the young person's needs, through consultation with the education tutor. This ensures that young people can still access educational programmes. Young people are supported into higher education or skills based further education courses. This ensures that young people are able to fulfil their potential and have the opportunity to enter the work place with nationally	

recognised qualifications.

Young people have excellent opportunities to enjoy leisure time in their local communities. Their hobbies and interests are encouraged and supported by the staff team. Activities, such as day trips to interesting places, visits to their individual league football teams, sessions in the gym and celebrations, including birthday meals out all encourage young people's participation and socialisation. Staff do their utmost to ensure that young people have every opportunity to partake in activities that they are interested in. This has helped young people gain confidence in their abilities, have fun, acquire new skills and improve their social and emotional skills. One young person said 'I'm surprised in myself I never went outside before moving here, now I have been to visit the museum, cinema and loads of other places, the staff are always trying to get me involved in something new, telling me I can do it.'

Staff effectively support and address young people's behavioural needs. Established relationships, coupled with good behaviour management plans, result in young people being diverted from a path of concerning behaviours. Praise, reward and the celebration of achievements replaces the need for punitive behaviour management strategies. Young people are encouraged to behave well and they quickly come to understand how to behave in an acceptable manner. In instances of young people causing damage to the fabric of the building, staff act quickly to ensure repairs take place and encourage young people to get involved. They also complete direct work sessions with young people to identify ways to express their frustration or distress, without resorting to aggression. One young person said 'When I'm getting angry I now have ten minutes on my own, before I would have wanted a reaction of staff and it would have just got worse.'

Young people's emotional and mental health needs are a priority. Young people receive therapeutic interventions either through the local mental health services or through the provision of psychotherapy. Young people are benefitting from these services, one young person commented, 'I realise now why the staff were saying talking to someone helps, I needed to understand what I was doing to everyone else as well as myself.' Regular consultations take place between the staff team and the therapist undertaking the work. These consultations support good communication and coordination across the staff team and a consistent approach to care practice.

The Registered Manager and staff are vigilant about safeguarding young people; they are clear as to their roles and responsibilities. This involves retaining strong and effective relationships with the local police, placing authorities, schools and

health professionals. This well-established professional network means that young people receive high levels of support reflecting their needs and vulnerabilities. An example being, those young people vulnerable to psychosis behaviour receive additional staff support and close supervision, further assisted through psychiatric nursing to support them emotionally during these times. Young people, as a result, receive the help they need to keep them safe.

Strong and effective leadership and clear monitoring systems are in place to continually review the quality of care provided and improve outcomes for young people. Staff report they are supported in their roles and have regular supervision sessions, to enable them to reflect on their practice and highlight any areas of development. Staff said 'The managers are very supportive and always make sure we remember that the young people are at the centre of what we do and why we are here.'

Information about this children's home

This section should outline:

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
09/09/2015	Full	Good
26/03/2015	Interim	improved effectiveness
07/10/2014	Full	Good
13/03/2014	Interim	Good Progress

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

Statutory Requirements

This section sets out the actions, which must be taken so that the registered person/s meets the Care Standards Act 2000, Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015 and the *Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards*. The registered person(s) must comply with the given timescales.

Requirement	Due date
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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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