

Children's homes - interim inspection

Inspection date	11/01/2016
Unique reference number	SC066115
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home
Registered person	Alliance Care & Education Limited
Registered person address	Brow Top Farm, Quernmore, LANCASTER, LA2 0QW

Responsible individual	Andrew Taylor
Registered manager	Martin Evans
Inspector	Mark Kersh

Inspection date	11/01/2016
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. Following the last inspection in May 2015, three young people have moved on from the home. The management team and staff were influential in ensuring planned moves took place for each of these young people. Staff provided effective support to parents, young people and the staff in their new placements, which ensured that young people's transitions were individual to their interest and needs. The young people have remained in touch with the home and a parent has commented, 'I can't thank staff enough for the excellent care my daughter has got since being there.' Three young people have been accommodated since the last inspection. Two young people's placements were planned and one took place in an emergency. Young people confirm they were greeted upon arrival at the home, and some were able to meet staff as part of the planning process. The home is welcoming and staff members are supportive and know the needs and day-to-day arrangements for young people in line with their agreed plans. A social worker says, 'Since (XX) has been placed he has made significant positive progress. Staff have stuck with him and have a good knowledge of his needs and follow the agreed plan to meet these'. Sufficient background information is requested prior to an emergency admission being accepted. A planning meeting is held within 48 hours of such an admission, in line with the home's statement of purpose document. This ensures all information is available and agreed in meeting the placement needs. Improvements have been made to the compatibility risk assessment by the registered manager. This ensures all information about potential placements is scrutinised thoroughly and the home can meet the needs of individual young people. This reduces any likely impact on the young person being accommodated and any potential impact on the group of young people living in the home. The registered manager ensures all information is made available in relation to young people and is not afraid to ask for further information.	

As a result, the home is stable and young people are settled in placement. From their starting point they have made significant progress in all areas of their lives. They regularly attend and engage in education. A teacher commented, 'He is really happy with all young people and all are doing really well in education.' Young people collectively confirm they enjoy attending the on-site school and feel they benefit from the education provided to them.

Young people feel supported and say they are listened to. Progress has been made ensuring regular key worker sessions and meetings between staff members and young people seek their views, wishes and feelings. All of these are responded to and recorded within young people's case files. This means the requirement made at the last inspection has been met. Young people are positive about the support and care they receive in the home and say, 'Staff really do care and look after me, I enjoy school and all the activities.' And, 'it's good here we all get on well with each other.'

Young people know how to make a complaint and have information should they wish to raise a concern or a complaint about the care they receive in the home. This information includes contact details of independent people and organisations, young people can access this information without having to approach staff. No complaints have been made by young people or the local community following the last inspection.

Young people adapt and respond well to the strategies staff deploy to manage and improve their behaviour. Effective communication between staff who reflect on past experiences, ensure a consistent approach is provided to young people. Staff undertake refresher training in behaviour management and understand how young people's present emotions can be communicated through behaviour and they have the competence and skills to interpret and manage these. This means the requirement made at the last inspection has been met. As a result, restraint and consequences have significantly reduced and young people respond positively to the incentive and reward scheme in place.

Young people are safe in the home and say they feel safe. There are no safeguarding concerns and the current group of young people do not go missing or absent themselves from the home. There are no concerning behaviours being displayed by young people and none of them are displaying behaviour which is likely to criminalise them. Staff members are clear about the procedure to follow before police assistance is called for. They have completed further child sexual exploitation training ensuring young people are protected in the home. This means the requirement at the last inspection has been met.

Monitoring arrangements internally and externally are robust. These arrangements ensure any shortfalls in practice are actioned and the care provided to young people is sustained and improved. Reports provide a good evaluation and show the progress young people have and are making in the home.

Staff have a clear understanding of their responsibilities and arrangements of notifying significant events to appropriate authorities. There have been no significant events in the home with the current group of young people. These arrangements further protect them should a significant event take place.

No requirements or recommendations have been made at this inspection.

Information about this children's home

- ☐ The home is registered to accommodate four young people with emotional and behavioural difficulties
- ☐ The home is privately home owned and is located in a semi-rural location
- ☐ The home believes that each person has a right to be treated as an individual and that all their physical, emotional and health needs are met in an appropriate and attentive manner, as written in the home's statement of purpose

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
19/05/2015	CH - Full	Good
16/02/2015	CH - Interim	sustained effectiveness
12/11/2014	CH - Full	Good
13/03/2014	CH - 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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