

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC066458
Inspector	Monica Hargreaves
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Registered person	Pebbles Care Limited
Registered person address	Rouse House, 2 Wyther Lane Kirkstall Leeds West Yorkshire LS5 3BT
Responsible individual	Luiz Miguel Guilherme
Registered manager	Jane Wilson
Date of last inspection	04/12/2014

Inspection date	18/03/2015
Previous inspection	good
Enforcement action since last inspection	There has been no enforcement action since the last inspection.

This inspection

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

One recommendation was made at the previous inspection. This is met. All staff sign risk assessments to confirm that they have read and understood the plans that are put in place for young people. This contributes to the protection of young people.

Young people respond really well to the warm nurturing environment that the home provides. They have very good relationships with staff; they feel valued and report that they are well looked after. One young person said 'This is the best home - ever' and another said 'They praise me when I do well - that really helps me'. Young people grow in confidence as a result of the way they are looked after. Those young people who have benefitted from long-term settled placements have made very good progress. They have an excellent level of attendance at school. They achieve in education and are taking examinations. They have clear plans in place for further education and employment. Since the last inspection, one young person has started a part-time job at weekends which they really enjoy. This gives them a sense of achievement and contributes to the development of their independence skills. Young people who have recently been admitted to the home also have plans in place for education and employment. One professional reported 'X is making plans for education. That's a real improvement for her'.

Professionals and relatives report that young people are well cared for. A professional said 'This is a very child-focussed, family friendly home' and a parent said 'I am very happy about the care X is receiving. Her needs are definitely being met. Staff are so friendly and understanding. X is really happy to live there'.

Admissions are managed very well ensuring that young people are appropriately placed and supported as they move into the home. The manager carefully assesses the information that she receives about young people to confirm that the home can

meet their needs. Placements are carefully considered to ensure that there is a good match. This promotes a positive environment within which young people can grow and develop. Young people are able to visit the home to meet staff and other young people before they move in. They are also encouraged to help to plan how their rooms are set up. For example, they choose the colour schemes and their rooms are decorated before they move in. This helps to give young people a sense of ownership of their own space at a very early stage. Young people who have been admitted to the home since the last inspection are settling and making very good progress. Their health has improved because they are attending health appointments which they had previously refused to do. They are much safer because they do not go missing from this home. Their behaviour has improved, leading to a significant reduction in incidents of restraint.

Young people are fully supported to develop the knowledge and skills they need for a successful transition to independence. Staff make sure that they have a pathway plan in place at an early stage. They work closely with leaving care teams and other agencies to ensure that accommodation and ongoing support are clearly identified. They advocate for young people to ensure that any difficulties in securing appropriate support are resolved. A young person who has left the home since the last inspection confirmed that staff support was 'really good'. She reported that staff 'made sure everything was in place' and said 'They helped me a lot'. Staff keep in contact with young people for some time after they have left the home to help them to settle into independence. Young people value this contact.

Staff understand young people's vulnerabilities and they work effectively to ensure that young people are protected. Young people themselves confirm that they are cared for safely. One young person said 'Staff always keep us safe - no matter what'. Professionals and relatives also report that they feel that staff keep young people safe. Detailed risk assessments address concerns about all aspects of young people's vulnerabilities, for example going missing or sexual exploitation. Staff work closely with other professionals, such as the police, the child sexual exploitation team and placing social workers to ensure that information is appropriately shared and protection plans are followed. There have been no episodes of young people going missing from the home since the last inspection. There are no current concerns of sexual exploitation.

Communication across the team is very good, enabling staff to give consistent care to young people. This supports young people's progress. Care staff feel that they are well supported by their managers. They confirm that morale in the team is high. This communicates itself to young people and contributes to their progress.

The manager and deputy are keen to ensure that the home continues to develop. Since the last inspection, the format of care plans has been developed to improve the way young people's progress is recorded. Young people, relatives and professionals are regularly consulted about young people's care. This enables stakeholders to influence developments in the home.

The home is managed effectively. The manager has an excellent knowledge of the needs of the young people in the home. She works closely with the deputy and two senior care workers to ensure that there is good oversight of the care given to young people and the progress they make. The independent visitor undertakes thorough checks on the work of the home and provides detailed reports of his findings to the organisation. The manager takes action on any recommendations that the visitor makes and also responds promptly to any issue identified during inspections, in order to improve the quality of the service that is given to young people.

Information about this children's home

The registered provider is a limited company. This children's home is registered to provide care and accommodation for three young people with emotional and behavioural difficulties or mental disorders excluding learning difficulties.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
04/12/2014	Full	good
27/01/2014	Interim	good progress
30/05/2013	Full	good
06/12/2012	Interim	satisfactory 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.