

Children's homes - interim inspection

Inspection date	18/02/2016
Unique reference number	SC066916
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home
Registered manager	Elaine Cooke
Inspector	Elaine Allison

Inspection date	18/02/2016
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 sustained effectiveness. Building on the strengths from the last inspection there is significant improvement. All the requirements and recommendations are met and young people make good progress. Staff have now received training on Autism; this ensures they are able to meet the needs of the young people living in the home. Robust recruitment procedures are now in place that helps prevent unsuitable people from having access to young people. The home's Statement of Purpose has been updated and now reflects the home's aims and objectives and gives parents, commissioners and social workers a clear understanding on the services offered. There is a stable staff team that benefits young people who have good relationships and positive rapport with staff. One young person felt that, 'Staff are great you can tell they really care.' Young people feel safe to start to open up about their past lives and experiences. One social worker commented, 'male workers have worked hard with him, at a practical level they are very good role models and this has worked very well.' Staff and managers have formed excellent links with the local police, who in turn have built good relationships with young people. Communication and information sharing are excellent and this ensures positive and consistent action is taken to address any concerns. This has helped to reduce the number of missing from care incidents and criminal activity. A police officer commented: 'I have built up really good relationships with staff and young people and I want to keep that going.' Staff work hard to engage young people, keeping them active and interested so they do not feel the need to go off site. If they do leave the home, staff follow them and implement missing from home protocols and risk assessments with the police. These are regularly reviewed and updated to highlight any new risks, behaviours or particular vulnerabilities so all parties involved are aware how best to keep young people, and others in the community, as safe as possible. Return interviews are used to good effect to discuss the reasons for absence and help	

minimise the risk of future absences.

There is a very low use of physical interventions and sanctions. Staff understand the known and potential risks for each young person. This knowledge and the effective use of broad risk management strategies keep young people safe. Comments from placing social workers confirm that joint working is effective and that communication from the staff is very good. Comments reflect that young people have made very positive progress over recent months. Progress includes, a reduction in criminal activity, missing episodes and improved self-management of behaviours.

Young people are supported well in their moves from the home to independent living. Staff explore with them the emotional and practical aspects of living alone. An example of this includes the registered manager negotiating a delay in the proposed plans for a young person to move into independent living until he had started a foundation course at college. This ensured he had the help and support from staff to make his transition to independence as smooth as possible whilst being supported in his new college.

This inspection has identified two shortfalls in relation to the environment and the children's guide. The kitchen of the home had cupboard doors hanging off, was in general state of disrepair and was not clean. This presents a possible risk of injury to staff and young people and does not provide a warm and comfortable environment for the young people living there. The home's children's guide has not been updated in line with the home's Statement of Purpose or the Children's Homes Regulations 2015.

Information about this children's home

The home provides care and accommodation for up to four young people aged 10 to 17 years, who may experience emotional and behavioural difficulties.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
02/06/2015	CH - Full	Good
23/03/2015	CH - Interim	improved effectiveness
23/09/2014	CH - Full	Good
20/02/2014	CH - 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
12: The protection of children standard In order to meet the protection of children standard the registered person must ensure; that the premises used for the purposes of the home are designed, furnished and maintained so as to protect each child from avoidable hazards to the child's health. This relates to the kitchen cupboards hanging off and the general cleanliness of the kitchen. (Regulation 12 (2) (d))	31/03/2016

Recommendations

To improve the quality and standards of care further the service should take account of the following recommendation(s):

- ensure that the children's guide is accurate, reviewed and updated (The Guide to the Quality Standards, page 24 paragraph 4.23)

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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