

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC355755
Inspector	Stella Henderson
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Registered person	Dove Adolescent Services Limited
Registered person address	170 Southgate Pontefract West Yorkshire WF8 1QJ
Responsible individual	Barbara Anne Whittaker
Registered manager	Neill James Robinson
Date of last inspection	08/12/2014

Inspection date	02/03/2015
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Previous inspection	good
Enforcement action since last inspection	none

This inspection

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

No areas for improvement were identified at the last inspection. A requirement is raised at this inspection to help the provider improve the monitoring of the home by the manager. This internal assessment currently lacks reflection on consultation with young people, their families and stakeholders. This means a valuable source of information and opinion on the quality of care provided by the home is overlooked.

A recommendation is also set to better capture the outcomes that young people are achieving, especially around learning new skills and achievements. This minor deficit has no detrimental effect on young people. Improving this area of practice would give a clearer picture of young people's progress and better demonstrate the impact of the hard work of staff.

Young people continue to benefit from the stability and good quality care offered by the home. They make steady progress, relative to their time in placement. This is because they are cared for by a competent and committed staff team who want the best for them.

Young people enjoy very stable placements and have been at the home for some time. They have 'grown up' in the care of the same staff group, so staff know young people and their families very well. This helps to develop and nurture family relationships, resulting in improved family contact for the young people. Their health needs continue to be well met, with the involvement of specific services to help steer young people away from smoking and drug use.

Young people can and do engage well in education and work placements, but their commitment to formal education and learning can fluctuate. Staff and the organisation's in-house education team make every effort to re-engage them and secure alternative provision to meet their specific educational needs. They ensure

young people's time is structured around learning events that help extend their skills and improve further study and work opportunities.

Young people continue to be protected by good staffing levels and robust safeguarding procedures that underpin all aspects of staff practice. Individual risks and vulnerabilities are clearly understood by staff. The challenges of balancing young people's need for increasing independence with appropriate levels of supervision are managed well. Young people rarely go missing from the home, although deadlines for coming back on time at night are occasionally transgressed. There are no concerns about sexual exploitation or offending behaviour.

The home continues to be effectively managed and show capacity for improvement. The manager has a clear understanding of what the home does well and demonstrates a strong commitment to improving the quality of care and outcomes for young people. This includes maintaining a cheerful and homely environment for young people.

Information about this children's home

This privately owned children's home is registered to provide care and accommodation for one young person with emotional and/or behavioural difficulties.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
08/12/2014	Full	good
10/12/2013	Interim	good progress
16/04/2013	Full	good
27/02/2013	Interim	good progress

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

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 Regulations 2001 and the National Minimum Standards. The registered person(s) must comply with the given timescales.

Reg.	Requirement	Due date
34 (2001)	ensure that the system referred to in paragraph (1) shall provide for consultation with children accommodated in the home, their parents and placing authorities (Regulation 34)(1)(a)(b)(3)	06/04/2015

Recommendations

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

- ensure records are clear, up to date and stored secure and contribute to an understanding of the child's life. This is with reference to defining more clearly the outcomes achieved for young people. (NMS 22)

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.