

Children's homes - interim inspection

Inspection date	16/03/2016
Unique reference number	SC355755
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 Whittaker
Registered manager	Neill Robinson
Inspector	Debbie Foster

Inspection date	16/03/2016
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 sustained effectiveness. The one young person living at the home benefits from established and positive relationships with the staff. This has enabled him to maintain his longest stable placement while being looked after child. He has gained a range of independence skills. These include, learning to cook, undertaking chores around the home and has started to learn how to budget. Staff work supportively with the young person's family members and overtime they have built strong, trusting relationships. This allows open communication and assists in supporting the young person to stay with his family, in the knowledge that he is safe. Staff continue to work with the young person on risk-taking behaviours. These include the dangers of substance misuse and getting involved in petty crime. As a result, risk-taking behaviour remains low. The young person has spent less time at the home in recent months. This is due to his need to spend time with his family who live some distance away. During his stays with his family, staff undertake daily welfare checks to ensure his safety and wellbeing. They advocate on his behalf and are pursuing a move to a children's home, which is closer to his family. This will enable the young person to build on his relationship with his family while benefitting from stability in his own placement. The manager has not fully implemented the previous requirement and recommendation made at the last inspection. Staff have made several requests to the young person's social worker to complete a pathway plan. To date the social worker has not completed this. The staff continue to pursue this matter. The opportunity to undertaken focus work with the young person has been limited. This has been due to the young person staying with family members for a substantial about of time. In addition, more recently the provider has deployed the staff to work in other registered services. Consequently, records have not always logged the practical work undertaken in line with the aims and objectives of the	

young person's care plan and risk assessment.

The core staff team, have a wealth of experience and skills in working with hard to reach young people. Good training opportunities equip the staff well to care for young people. The recruitment to two staff will provide a full staff complement in line with the home's statement of purpose.

The management and independent monitoring of the service remains to a good standard. It includes the auditing of the care provided, the environment and a range of records relating to safety of young people. However, the lack of focus work recordings to evidence the young person's care plan is being fully implemented has not been detected. This shows a shortfall in the monitoring of the home.

Staff receive formal supervision, which reflects on their care practice.

Information about this children's home

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

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
08/12/2015	Full	Good
02/03/2015	Interim	Sustained effectiveness
08/12/2014	Full	Good
10/12/2013	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
The registered person must maintain records for each child which- include the information and documents listed in Schedule 3 in relation to each child; are kept up to date. (Regulation 36(1)(a)(b)) In order to meet the regulations, focus work in line with the young person's placement plan and risk assessment should be undertaken at regular intervals.	20/05/2016

Recommendations

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

- The registered person should work with the placing authority to ensure that each child's transition is planned and help each child to prepare for leaving. (The Guide to the Quality Standards, page 57, paragraph 11.9) In particular, that young people have a completed pathway plan, which ensures that the staff can follow and fully implement to provide the very best support to the young person.
- The registered person should actively seek independent scrutiny of the home and best use of Information from independent and internal monitoring (including under regulations 44 and 45) to ensure continuous improvement. (The Guide to the Quality Standards, page 55, paragraph 10.24) In particular, detect shortfalls in the implementing of the goals and targets set in the young person's care plan and risk assessment.

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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