

Children's homes – Interim inspection

Inspection date	06/03/2017
Unique reference number	SC371723
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home
Registered provider	Educare Adolescent Services Limited
Registered provider address	Venture House, 12 Prospect Business Park, Longford Road, CANNOCK, Staffordshire WS11 0LG

Responsible individual	Alan Davies
Registered manager	Dale Carpenter
Inspector	Paul Robinson

Inspection date	06/03/2017
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 judges that it has sustained effectiveness.	
Since the last inspection, one young person has had a planned move to a new placement and there has been one new admission. Transition plans are well planned and facilitated. For example, during a transition out of the home, a young person was able to visit their new placement on several occasions, and staff took the time to ensure that the new staff understood how best to support the young person. Similarly, staff manage admissions into the home well, even when the admission is an emergency placement. Staff are proactive in getting to know the young person and ensure that they quickly establish effective communication links with the placing authority to enable collaborative working. Staff understand the need for young people to feel reassured, cared for and most importantly wanted. Staff achieve this by offering young people lots of positive attention, praise and encouragement. Feedback from a professional indicated that, for one young person: 'Staff have helped [the young person] to believe in herself and to enjoy being a child rather than worrying about her own safety.' Staff keep young people safe. Members of staff understand young people's individual vulnerabilities and triggers that can place them at risk. Staff respond to safeguarding concerns swiftly and diligently. This helps to ensure that all measures are in place to keep young people safe. Staff utilise the support of partner agencies in safeguarding situations, by working collaboratively with the police and placing authorities. Equally, staff members try not to be risk averse, providing young people with opportunities to make safe choices independently. For example, young people are able to work towards having free time, the use of a mobile phone and access to the internet. Dedicated staff ensure that all young people are provided with personalised care to ensure that they make progress in all aspects of their lives. As a result, young people are healthy, they access education and they are being well prepared for their transitions into adulthood.	

The registered manager continues to have a comprehensive understanding of the home and uses monitoring systems effectively to ensure that young people are safe and making sustained progress.

At the full inspection, one requirement was raised. Staff have addressed this and, as a result, the individual voices of young people are listened to and understood. This is achieved formally through consultation questionnaires, key-work sessions and house meetings, but also informally through conversations at meal times and during activities.

There is no shortfall emerging from this inspection.

Information about this children's home

This privately owned children's home is registered to care for up to three young people aged 10 to 17 who have emotional and/or behavioural difficulties.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
02/08/2016	Full	Good
15/09/2015	Interim	Declined in effectiveness
21/07/2015	Full	Good
22/01/2015	Interim	Improved effectiveness

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 that 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. Whenever 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 whom 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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Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
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