

Children's homes - interim inspection

Inspection date	21/01/2016
Unique reference number	SC372117
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home
Registered manager	Paul Smith
Inspector	Paul Scott

Inspection date	21/01/2016
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 improved effectiveness. Young people live in a safe, caring and supportive environment that enables them to make good progress in many aspects of their lives. Staff work hard to ensure young people's individual needs are met through effective care planning. They maintain strong links with parents and professionals and take a cohesive approach to meeting each young person's unique needs. Young people are very complimentary about staff and living at the home and recognise the role staff have played in helping them move forward with their lives. One young person spoke about how staff have helped her re-engage in education and how they are helping her prepare for semi-independent living, including managing her own budget and preparing her own meals. Two young people have left the home since the last inspection, with one moving to another home within the organisation and another going to a specialist placement. Both transitions were very well planned and were coordinated sensitively in a way that provided maximum support for each young person. Admissions, of which there have been two, have been managed in an equally positive manner. Good consideration has been given to matching these young people who are clearly happy and settled in their home. Relationships are a notable strength between the young people and staff and the young people themselves. One young person said: 'I like it here and it is much better than other places I have lived. I can talk to staff about most things and (Name) and I are just like brother and sister. It feels like this is a family.' Young people are helped to understand how to keep themselves safe and are making good choices in this respect. Staff talk to them about managing their own risks and vulnerabilities and provide them with relevant information about current topics such as e-safety, child sexual exploitation and radicalisation for example. They demonstrate a good understanding of their role in keeping young people safe and know what to do if any concerns arise. For example, staff vigilance has on two occasions resulted in robust action being taken in response to concerns around the use of social media. Both incidents were managed well including educating young people and working closely with external safeguarding agencies and the police.	

Allegations against staff, of which there have been two, have been handled with the same rigour.

The Registered Manager continues to split his management time between this and another home for which he is responsible. This continues to be an effective arrangement with staff confirming that they are fully supported and young people saying he is visible. He demonstrates a commitment to ensuring young people receive good quality care and has taken suitable action to address the two recommendations from the previous inspection.

One shortfall relating to young people's risk assessments is noted at this inspection. On the whole risk assessments are of a good quality. They identify young people's risks known risks and vulnerabilities and include relevant responses to the management of these. However, one risk assessment does not provide sufficient information about what staff should do in response to a specific type of self-harming behaviour, which had been identified as a potential risk for this young person. Despite this, staff were able to clearly describe how they would manage such an incident even though this behaviour has not been prevalent since the young person arrived at the home.

Information about this children's home

This is one of a number of children's homes operated by a private company. The home is registered to provide care and accommodation for up to two young people who may need support with emotional and/or behavioural difficulties.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
01/07/2015	CH - Full	Good
11/03/2015	CH - Full	Requires improvement
10/09/2014	CH - Full	Inadequate
25/06/2014	CH - Full	Good

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

Recommendations

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

- Where there are safeguarding concerns for a child, their placement plan, agreed between the home and their placing authority, must include details of the steps the home will take to manage any assessed risks on a day to day basis. (The Guide to the Quality Standards, page 42, paragraph 9.5)

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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Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 1231
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
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