

Children's homes - interim inspection

Inspection date	11/03/2016
Unique reference number	SC372617
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home
Registered manager	Justine Staples
Inspector	Julian Mason

Inspection date	11/03/2016
Previous inspection judgement	Outstanding
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 outstanding at the full inspection. At this interim inspection Ofsted judge that it has sustained effectiveness. The registered manager and staff team continue to have high aspirations for the young person in their care. They strive to continually meet his needs and help him make the best of the opportunities available. The young person has been at the home for a number of years and continues to make progress in comparison to his previous circumstances. He has well established relationships with his carers who know him well. The staff group is stable and constant, which contributes significantly to the young person experiencing familiar care and support. This is strongly evidenced in key worker records that reflect the direct work undertaken in support of the young person's progress and personal development. Staff want the young person to do well and have a positive outlook and approach in support of this aim. The young person's attendance and attainment in education continues to be excellent given past difficulties and experiences. The young person has a near 100% attendance record at a local mainstream school. Overall, he continues to achieve in line with his own expectations and that of his teachers. There is a strong and supportive culture in the home; expectations are high in terms of what the young person can achieve. He is still on track to achieve some good GCSE passes in a range of subjects. Because of these circumstances, the young person has been able to confidently plan ahead and apply to Sixth Form College and choose his A level subjects to study. The young person's free time and leisure interests continue to be well supported. He is able to spend time on his own, with friends from school as well as participating in activities with staff. The young person continues to show great commitment and interest in music, successfully passing his first graded music exam with distinction. The young person is very happy with the support he gets and the encouragement he receives from the staff team. The young person is fully involved in the planning and provision of his care and support needs. He feels very safe in the home and with the people who look after him. There are detailed, up to date plans that identify the purpose of the	

placement and how the placing authority's care plan will be progressed. Care planning and monitoring effectively takes account of individual needs and comprehensively reflects changing circumstances as the young person gets older. Because of this, the staff team are well informed about necessary practices and arrangements that help the young person to move forward.

Staff promote and encourage a culture of positive behaviour between everyone in the home. They continually assess the young person's circumstances and what is happening in their lives at any given time. The young person is encouraged to take responsibility for his actions and more formal measures such as sanctions or restraint are not used often. Staff use their relationships, skills and training as well as their individual knowledge of the young person to promote patterns of socially acceptable behaviour. Staff listen to the young person and always try to prevent difficult behaviour from escalating. This approach helps the staff team determine how best they can help sustain appropriate behaviour and relationships.

The home has well-established networks and relationships with a range of agencies and professionals who are involved in meeting the young person's needs. For example, staff work closely with teachers in support of school attendance and attainment. Individual care and support arrangements are regularly discussed in meetings with other professionals. The home's networks and contacts continue to be successfully organised around the needs and circumstances of the young person.

Information about this children's home

This children's home is registered to provide care and accommodation for one young person with emotional and/or behavioural difficulties. The home is operated by a private company.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
17/08/2015	CH - Full	Outstanding
10/02/2015	CH - Interim	Improved effectiveness
07/10/2014	CH - Full	Good
06/03/2014	CH - Interim	Satisfactory progress

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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