

Children's homes - interim inspection

Inspection date	22/02/2016
Unique reference number	SC372652
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home
Registered manager	Janet Classon
Inspector	Julian Mason

Inspection date	22/02/2016
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. There has been a change to who the home looks after since the last inspection. Staff have ensured that the new young person is welcomed into the house and encouraged to make a positive start towards achieving the agreed aims and goals of his placement. The established and experienced staff team continue to work together to build familiar care and support routines that match individual needs and circumstances. The young person struggled at the beginning of his placement and was reluctant to take advice and guidance from staff but he is more settled now. The young person is forming attachments and relationships with the team, which demonstrates the potential of the service to have a positive influence on those they look after. The two requirements made at the last inspection have been addressed by the registered manager and provider organisation. New arrangements are now in place that ensures monthly monitoring visits are carried out by an independent person. Quality assurance and monitoring systems have been reviewed and updated with the introduction of a new six-monthly reporting format. The manager has good monitoring and quality assurance systems in place that help identify short and longer-term development objectives and improvements to the service. The home has well-established networks and relationships with a range of agencies and professionals who are involved in meeting the needs of individual young people. For example, staff work closely with teachers and education providers in support of attendance and attainment at school or college. The manager maintains necessary links with local agencies with lead child protection responsibilities. Individual care and support arrangements are regularly discussed with visiting therapists, which helps the manager and staff team tailor and develop their day-to-day practices. The young person is encouraged to behave well and to improve his behaviour. Staff provide practical day-to-day support to help with their relationships and social interactions. The manager provides clear guidance to staff that helps to promote consistent boundaries and this approach is further supported by detailed behaviour	

management plans, which are kept under review. When the young person's behaviour has challenged acceptable boundaries, proportionate responses are taken to these events. In the beginning, this included the use of physical restraint but the need to use this measure of control has receded. These events along with other collated information helps the manager determine the progress being made in comparison to the young person's circumstances on arrival.

The young person is safe in the home and with the staff who work with him. A key focus of the team is the way in which the young person is engaged in matters that relate to his ongoing needs. Staff approach this work in a planned and coordinated way, which is set into their day-to-day practice and routines. The young person benefits from having lots of one-to-one time with staff and he is able to talk about a wide range of issues that are linked to personal safety, behaviour and relationships. Work with the young person is assessed and evaluated to ensure the right approaches are taken and remain relevant to his needs and circumstances.

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
21/07/2015	CH - Full	Outstanding
20/01/2015	CH - Interim	Sustained effectiveness
08/09/2014	CH - Full	Good
18/02/2014	CH - Interim	Good 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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