

Children's homes - interim inspection

Inspection date	03/03/2016
Unique reference number	SC376719
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home
Registered manager	Claire Peate
Inspector	Mark Fitzgerald

Inspection date	03/03/2016
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 home makes a positive difference to the lives of young people. Staff provide support that helps young people to develop in confidence, and to succeed in education. Admissions and departures are well planned. Managers use the placement matching process effectively to consider the needs of young people already in placement, as well as those of a prospective new arrival. The success of these decisions, together with the limited placement capacity, results in a home which is settled, and which has a homely domestic feel to it. The most recent departure was of a young person who had lived at the home for five and a half years. The care and attention she received from staff during this time led to improvements in all aspects of her life. Education, health, behaviour, self-care skills, family contact arrangements; significant progress had been achieved in all of these areas. As she approaches adulthood, she is coping well in semi-independence and has a clear idea about the further education options that will help her to achieve her goal of a career in the army. This is not an isolated example; all young people at the home are encouraged to develop and succeed to the same extent. Young people participate actively in shaping their own care experiences. They regularly express their views, wishes and preferences formally in convened meetings, and informally in their everyday conversations with staff. Managers and staff listen to what young people have to say and act on their requests where it is safe and reasonable to do so. The experienced registered manager takes pride in the high standard of care provided to young people. The detailed monthly monitoring reports from the independent person and managers' own monthly monitoring data and analysis means that areas for development are promptly addressed. The managers' three-monthly reports on the quality of care incorporate all of this information, in sections that concentrate on their relevance to the quality standards for children's	

homes. Staff reflect on the standard of professional practice and the needs of young people in team meetings and supervision sessions.

Behaviours that were commonplace before young people's arrival at the home, such as going missing, substance misuse and self-harm, all reduce markedly as placements progress. The one-to-one staffing ratio means that young people remain occupied, motivated and diverted from negative behaviours. The good relationships between staff and young people allow harmful behaviours to be discussed openly. Staff members know the vulnerabilities of young people and assess risk using this knowledge. Young people respond positively to the care they receive and as a result, they are protected from harm.

The manager ensures that young people have the resources and services they need to progress. Positive outcomes for young people are the result of good working relationships with a range of partner agencies such as schools, colleges, social workers and police. A particular strength of the home is the support that staff provide to increase young people's contacts with their families. Young people's relationships with their friends and relatives are maintained and bolstered because of these efforts.

The previous inspection did not result in any requirements or recommendations for the home. Young people are content to live according to the rules of the home and they continue to receive good quality care.

Information about this children's home

The home provides care and accommodation for up to two young people with emotional and behavioural difficulties. It is operated by a private company.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
17/11/2015	CH - Full	Outstanding
04/03/2015	CH - Interim	Sustained effectiveness
09/12/2014	CH - Full	Good
26/03/2014	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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