

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC379357
Inspector	Angie Bishop
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Registered person	Castle Homes Care Limited
Registered person address	Castle Homes Care Ltd, The Manor House High Street, Rothwell KETTERING Northamptonshire NN14 6BQ
Responsible individual	Shelley Frances Whiting
Registered manager	Debra Julie Leighton
Date of last inspection	23/09/2014

Inspection date	13/02/2015
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Previous inspection	good
Enforcement action since last inspection	none

This inspection

This home was judged good at the last full inspection. At this interim inspection Ofsted judge that it has **improved effectiveness**.

The manager continues to make improvements to the provision. She is knowledgeable of the strengths and weaknesses of the home and has a clear vision for the future.

The manager and staff engage with external agencies to ensure they effectively manage risk. The manager has developed a pro forma for recording and monitoring risk. Staff use this to develop dynamic risk profiles, which clearly record actions to be taken in different situations. As a result, staff have a clear knowledge of each young person's risk areas and how to manage them. A social worker said: 'They go above and beyond, they do everything within their power to keep her safe. They continually review risk. They do not look into the future but they do everything they can to predict her behaviours.'

Staff and young people engage in cultural nights. Staff spend time researching different cultures and along with young people, they explore the importance of cultural diversity. Staff take young people to restaurants as part of these evenings. As a result, young people are encouraged to embrace alternate cultures to their own.

The manager recruits staff to the home, matching them to the existing staff team and young people. There is good stability within the team. Staff enjoy their work and are committed to the care of the young people. As a result, young people are familiar with their caregivers; this in turn increases their investment in their home. One young person said: 'The provision saved my life; each and every one of the staff had an impact on my life and made me a better person.'

New and existing staff access a broad training program including training in child sexual exploitation. They all have a minimum level of training and the manager

encourages staff to identify their training needs. All staff work from a practical and theoretical base that informs their understanding of young people's individual needs. This understanding translates into a staff team who are responsive to young people's needs. A staff member said: 'This is a solid team and young people know they can trust us to keep them safe.'

Staff establish relationships with young people's families; they supervise and promote positive contact. All young people enjoy contact with significant family members and friends in and outside of the home. Young people also access video calling to friends and family, which staff appropriately supervise in line with care plans. Accordingly, young people are less likely to place themselves at risk seeking out contact. One parent said: 'I am very pleased with my daughter's progress, for the first time in the last two years I have confidence she is in good hands. Excellent family atmosphere and very professional.'

Young people consistently attend the onsite education, where one teacher delivers all lessons. They study for general certificate of secondary education examinations. Consequently, young people develop their educational potential, which promotes the scope for future achievements, in line with their peers.

Information about this children's home

This home is part of a large private children's care organisation and is registered to accommodate three young people with emotional and behavioural difficulties. The home offers short, long-term and emergency placements. The home has a school on site, and this is registered with the Department for Education.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
23/09/2014	Full	good
20/03/2014	Interim	good progress
27/06/2013	Full	good
18/12/2012	Interim	good progress

What inspection judgements mean

At the interim inspections 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

The purpose of this inspection is to assure children and young people, parents, the public, local authorities and government of the quality and standard of the service provided. The 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 relevant regulations and meets the national minimum standards.

The report details the main strengths, any areas for improvement, including any breaches of regulation, and any failure to meet national minimum standards. The judgements included in the report are made against the framework of inspection for children's homes.