

Children's homes - Interim inspection

Inspection date	14/02/2017
Unique reference number	SC391594
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home
Registered person	Pathways Care Residential
Registered person address	St James Place, 7 Castle Quay, Castle Boulevard, Nottingham NG7 1 FW
Responsible individual	Zoey Lees
Registered manager	Stephanie Skinner
Inspectors	Catherine Sikakana Stella Henderson

Inspection date	14/02/2017
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 improved effectiveness. Young people continue to flourish and consistently make notable progress in all aspects of their lives, comparative to their identified learning needs. For example, since the last inspection one young person has successfully re-integrated into school and their attendance has substantially improved. Increased confidence in participating in social activities and volunteering has seen one young person attending an outward bound residential course, as well as undertaking work with animals. Another young person, since receiving home tuition, has achieved educationally beyond expectations and is now on target to obtain qualifications in basic maths and English. The same young person is now involved in the Children's Council. Young people have experienced a period of stability with no new admissions to, or discharges from the home since the last inspection. Careful, thorough and sensitive planning is in hand to prepare one young person for the transition to adult services. This includes the recognition that this event will be an emotional time for all young people in the home. In the acknowledgement of the attachments that have developed over several years, one young person said: 'I will stay in contact and visit because we are like siblings and very close'. All young people attend some form of educational provision that is tailored to meet their individual learning needs. All young people are on target to continue into further education, supported by staff to make the right choices through a combination of vocational and work based training. This is because excellent communication and relationships exist between staff at the home and professionals working in a range of local specialist educational provision. Young people feel safe and are protected because staff understand the vulnerabilities associated with their highly complex needs. Since the last inspection there have been no 'missing from home' incidents, and the risk of child sexual exploitation is well-managed and therefore low. When such risks emerge, they are quickly addressed and underpinned by finding appropriate resources and making referrals to specialist services. The use of social media is closely monitored and	

supervised and the rationale for this is explained young people. One young person said: 'I like having my keyworker sitting with me while I am on the internet as she stops me from talking to the wrong people'.

Since the last inspection the manager and staff have been proactive in helping some young people to re-establish contact with parents, siblings and extended family members. For example, one young person has progressed from letter-box contact to supervised contact with their siblings. Young people, and their families, are fully supported throughout this process. This is because staff are acutely aware of the impact that contact with family can have on young people. Such arrangements are therefore carefully managed and monitored. This helps young people to have a realistic understanding of the value of family contact and make their own choices accordingly.

Young people continue to enjoy and participate in a range of social activities. They are consulted in all aspects of their daily lives. For example, since the last inspection young people have enjoyed a trip to a theme park and one young person has been attending, 'Alive and Kicking', a 12 week healthy lifestyle course.

Young people are developing their independence skills through a measured approach that takes into account their individual complex needs. Working through a weekly planner, young people gain life skills such as budgeting and managing domestic tasks. This 'small steps' approach helps to build their confidence and social skills.

The manager continues to lead by example, promoting high standards of care for young people. Monitoring of young people's progress remains an area of strength. The manager and staff respond in a timely way and often innovatively to address any areas for development that will enhance the quality of care for young people. This includes learning from inspection and the independent visitor's assessment of the running of the home.

As a result, the recommendations made at the last inspection are met, leading to a reassessment of their restraint policy in relation to locking doors and the quality of regulation 45 reports.

Information about this children's home

The home is operated by a private company. It is registered to provide care and accommodation for up to three children who have emotional and/or behavioural difficulties.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
17/08/2016	Full	Outstanding
19/01/2016	Interim	Sustained effectiveness
13/10/2015	Full	Good
18/03/2015	Interim	Improved effectiveness

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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