

Children's homes - interim inspection

Inspection date	16/03/2016
Unique reference number	SC398253
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home
Registered manager	Michael Dodd
Inspector	Charlie Bamber

Inspection date	16/03/2016
Previous inspection judgement	Good
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 Good at the full inspection. At this interim inspection Ofsted judge that it has improved effectiveness. Young people at the home are generally making good progress, particularly with regard to attendance in education. Two young people have sustained full-time educational placements which they have not previously managed. This is a great achievement for them. The home's close links with education staff promote attendance and support young people to persevere in education even when they are struggling. The staff team are stable, consistent and experienced. They develop positive relationships with the young people which enables them to form attachments and develop trust in the adults who care for them. The manager and staff team are keen to develop further and have planned training in a number of complex issues specific to the young people placed. This will help them better understand the young people and learn new strategies for ensuring their progress. Family contact is positive for most young people placed and is developing in line with their needs and emerging independence. For one young person family contact had been progressed to overnight contact in his home area which was a significant step. Missing from home incidents for some young people are linked to family contact and whilst the home have followed procedures correctly one young person has been missing for an extended period, giving rise to concern about his wellbeing and safety. Missing from home episodes for some young people have no apparent triggers and the home has put steps in place to be extra vigilant to young people who may place themselves at risk by going missing. The number of incidents of physical intervention have significantly reduced which is evidence of the staff's skill at de-escalation and progress in the young people's ability to self-regulate. Where physical intervention has been used the recording is of a generally good standard, although further detail about antecedents and direct links to behaviour management plans would assist in clarifying the reason physical intervention is used. The managers understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of the home is very	

good. There is acknowledgement that the staff team are much more skilled in direct work with young people than they are in evidencing this and training and development are planned to bridge this gap. Recording is of a mixed standard although generally good. Where recording issues are identified these do not have a significant impact on the young people and are specifically issues in respect of recording and not practice.

Safeguarding practice at the home is very good. Positive interagency working allows safeguarding issues to be tackled in a comprehensive way and results in issues being fully addressed and managed in the safest possible way. Bullying within school is raised as an issue by one young person and staff and managers have taken action to ensure this issue is investigated and addressed. Positive multi-agency planning for young people including agencies such as police, social workers, education, health and CAMHS results in care planning which is robust and well informed.

The homes manager has responded positively to the requirements made at the last full inspection. There have been no further errors in administering prescribed medication. Medication blister packs clearly record on both sides of the packaging whether the dose is for mornings or evenings to prevent mistakes from occurring and all staff have had further medication training. There have been no delays in notification to Ofsted of any issues requiring notification and any serious safeguarding concerns have been reported to the relevant agencies in a timely manner.

Whilst there have been two serious missing from home episodes and some minor issues identified in respect of recording, the judgement at this inspection is of improved effectiveness. This relates to the home's response to the requirements at the previous inspection, the very good progress with attendance at education for two young people and the depth of managers' understanding of the home's strengths and weaknesses and action in respect of areas identified for improvement.

Information about this children's home

The home is operated by a private provider who has a small number of other children's homes in the locality. It provides a service for up to five young people with learning disabilities as well as those who experience emotional and behavioural difficulties. The organisation also operates a school, registered with the Department for education, providing fully integrated programmes of care and education.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
12/01/2016	Full	Good
16/02/2015	Interim	sustained effectiveness
25/09/2014	Full	Outstanding
24/02/2014	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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