

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC399586
Inspector	Nicola McEvinney
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Registered person	First 4 Care Limited
Registered person address	7 Albion Place DONCASTER South Yorkshire DN1 2EG
Responsible individual	Carolann Dodds
Registered manager	Lynn Rosemary Johnson
Date of last inspection	03/11/2014

Inspection date	09/03/2015
Previous inspection	adequate
Enforcement action since last inspection	none

This inspection

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

This inspection assessed the progress made since the last full inspection conducted in November 2014 when the home was judged to be adequate. Although, the judgements for outcomes, quality of care and safeguarding young people were judged to be good. A number of requirements and a recommendation were raised at the last inspection.

The staff have worked hard to address all of the requirements and the recommendation made. As a result, young people's toys and belongings have been removed from the staff sleeping in room. This has not impacted negatively on the young people as their toys and belongings have been moved into the lounge area where they can access them freely. A quiet corner has been created in this room which facilitates reading time that young people enjoy. The Statement of Purpose is now a comprehensive document containing all the required information and Ofsted have been provided with a copy. The home is visited monthly by an independent person who consults with the young people, their parents and staff to gain a view on the care provided. All staff have either attained the level 3 Diploma or are working towards this qualification. One member of staff is working towards the level 5 Diploma. The home has effective systems in place to consult with parents' young people and the placing authorities. For example, one family has a daily consultation with regard to their child. All pertinent information is shared to enable the family to have a clear picture of how their child is being cared for. Parents are consulted when there are proposed changes to young people's care plans. When these changes are made; parents, social workers, and where they are able, young people, sign their agreement. This ensures plans are understood by all.

The manager who was appointed in November 2014 is now registered with Ofsted. She is highly experienced with a number of years working as a Registered Manager. She leads a team of enthusiastic staff who are well supported and committed to the

young people they care for. Regular team meetings are held and the manager uses this time to refresh practice as well as a learning forum. For example, staff recently revisited and considered attachment issues affecting young people.

Young people are making good progress in all areas. Those young people who had communication difficulties have progressed in making their wishes and feelings known. This has led to improvements in their behaviours as they appear less frustrated. They are engaging and interacting well with staff which improves their quality of life. They have enjoyed a number of trips out on public transport, an experience that is new to them. This has been very successful and there are plans during the school holidays for them to go further afield. There has been a slight improvement in their diet, particularly in stopping the consumption of high sugar drinks. These young people have started to attend after school clubs which enhances their life experiences. Other young people are developing their independence skills. Staff have accompanied young people on public transport to attend school but young people are now doing this journey alone. They say, 'it feels good, but frightening'. Staff ensure their safety by maintaining telephone contact. This promotes young people's independence skills and self-esteem.

The home is currently being redecorated and some areas refurbished. For example, floor covering is being replaced and young people are choosing their own colour scheme for their bedrooms. This further enhances the environment of this comfortable home.

Young people are safeguarded by staff awareness of their responsibilities when any concerns arise. There are no incidents of young people going missing and no safeguarding issues.

Young people feel safe and well cared for. They say that they always have someone they can talk to and say, 'things are good here'.

Information about this children's home

This privately owned home is registered to provide care for up to two young people with emotional or behavioural difficulties and/or with learning disabilities.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
03/11/2014	Full	adequate
28/02/2014	Interim	good progress
16/04/2013	Full	good
10/01/2013	Interim	satisfactory 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.