

Children's homes - interim inspection

Inspection date	15/03/2016
Unique reference number	SC399586
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home
Registered person	First 4 Care Limited
Registered person address	313 Goodison Boulevard, DONCASTER, South Yorkshire, DN4 6TP

Responsible individual	Carolann Dodds
Registered manager	Position vacant
Inspector	Barnaby Dowell

Inspection date	15/03/2016
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 received a judgement of Good at the full inspection. At this interim inspection, Ofsted judge that it has Sustained effectiveness. Three requirements resulted from the full inspection; the home has successfully addressed these. No requirements or recommendations result from this inspection. Recruitment processes are now safer. Despite none occurring since the last inspection, new procedures ensure full verification of two written references per application. As a result, young people are safer. The home has commissioned a new independent visitor. Her reports offer rigorous scrutiny and analysis. She is presently working with the interim manager to improve the quality of case recording in the home. Case files now offer clearer evidence of the progress made by young people. The interim manager is presently awaiting clearance from the disclosure and barring service prior to issuing her application for registration. She has been in post since December and settled well. She has over fifteen years of relevant management experience and leads a small team of committed, permanent staff. One staff member comments, 'She has been amazing she has really bought the home together.' Staff morale is high in the home. Regular training, supervision and appraisal motivates them. There have been no staff departures or arrival of young people since the full inspection. This has created an environment where young people build positive relationships with staff and with each other. Both young people remain placed by the host local authority and enjoy good access to specialist services. Comprehensive behavioural management plans support staff and good behaviour. Plans offer clear and informed guidance when young people become agitated. Staff plan effectively for key triggers. Consequently, there have been no recent restraints. Close relationships with staff allow young people to reflect on their behaviours and develop coping mechanisms.	

Risk assessments are thorough and regularly reviewed. Staff work in partnership with key professionals to manage complicated health conditions and safeguard young people.

Feedback from young people, parents and professionals remains positive. One parent comments, 'I could not fault the home at all, they do everything they can for him.' Staff work well with parents to co-ordinate care plans and promote regular contact. Positive relationships alleviate anxieties for young people.

Young people make progress in all areas. For example, managing personal hygiene to developing speech and social skills. Staff within a warm, nurturing environment warmly celebrate these achievements. Young people achieve in education, for example, recently, receiving an award as learner of the month. Daily communication with school supports this.

Staff push young people to enjoy new experiences, such as accessing work experience programmes or sampling sporting activities. This promotes the importance of healthy living and the development of self-esteem.

Staff prioritise the importance of transitional skills. One young person is now self-medicating and enjoying increased independence and autonomy. Regular key work sessions support young people with a number of activities such as reading and managing their own money.

Information about this children's home

This is a privately run children's home, registered for up to two young people with learning difficulties.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
14/12/2015	Full	Good
09/03/2015	Interim	Improved effectiveness
03/11/2014	Full	Adequate
28/02/2014	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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