

Children's homes - interim inspection

Inspection date	04/03/2016
Unique reference number	SC406638
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home
Registered person	Winsbeach Children's Home Limited
Responsible individual	John Ofutu
Registered manager	John Ofutu
Inspector	Christine Kennet

Inspection date	04/03/2016
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 sustained effectiveness. This home has sustained a good level of care for young people since the last inspection in October 2015. The registered manager has addressed the three requirements made at that inspection which demonstrates capacity to continue to improve the home. The home's statement of purpose and function has been updated and a copy sent to the regulator. The care offered within the home reflects this document. The home's fire assessment has been updated to include arrangements for exiting the locked garden gate if necessary and the flooring in the dining area is repaired. The registered manager considers new referrals for admission to the home very carefully and there have been no new admissions to the home for some time, due to the needs of the existing residents. This careful approach to admissions and consideration to the needs of the existing young people has supported positive placements of longevity, creating stability and the opportunity to undertake meaningful work with young people to improve their futures. One young person left the home since the last inspection. Notice was given to the placing authority and an alternative placement was sought in a planned way. Although this young person did not want to move, staff supported this, facilitating the new home's staff to visit and explaining clearly what was happening and when. A disruption meeting to discuss the future of the young person's placement was cancelled by the placing authority. A strength of this home is the small but experienced staff team. Consequently young people know the staff well and receive excellent continuity of care. The small amount of staff gives the home a family feel. Young people share positive relationships with staff and appear relaxed and happy in their presence. Young people make good progress in this home. Young people engage with education. Staff help them to understand the importance of this, and how it can open the way to future life chances. Staff use key work sessions and young	

people's meetings positively to consider emerging and important issues such as 'sexting' and 'online safety'.

Staff know young people well. They help them to build confidence, develop their own identity and support them to make changes to be happier, stay safer and build better relationships. For example, young people are supported to improve their psychological health, make a positive contribution, improve their capacity to listen and empathise, be aware of inappropriate behaviours, apologise on their own initiative and express and explore their feelings through speech and music instead of through negative behaviours.

Safeguarding is central to the practice within this home. Staff are aware of their responsibility to keep young people as safe as possible and work hard and with commitment to try to ensure this happens. Young people say they feel safe. They benefit from careful risk assessments and plans. Although risk assessments are updated regularly with any new identified risks, the basic initial risks are not routinely revised to record progress or review the level of risk.

The ethos of this home reinforces positive behaviour and invests in building trusting relationships with young people. This approach means that sanctions and restraints are rarely used. Although there have been no restraints since the last inspection, the present restraint forms need updating to comply with the children's home regulations.

Staff maintain records that give a good account of key work sessions, plans and young people's progress. Recording of incidents is not always clear, for example, detailed reports are not found on all logged incidents. Recordings in several different parts of the file make it difficult to establish exactly what happened and what actions were taken as a result. A recommendation is made to review recording in respect of restraint and incident recording.

External monitoring of this home is good. An independent person regularly visits the home and offers a good analysis of practice and recommendations for improvement. The registered manager completes a review of the quality of care, which ensures an understanding of what is happening in the home and identifies areas for potential improvement.

Information about this children's home

This is a private children's home. It is registered to accommodate up to three children and young people with emotional and behavioural difficulties.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
07/10/2015	Full	Good
20/03/2015	Interim	Improved effectiveness
17/10/2014	Full	Good
04/02/2014	Interim	Good Progress

What does the children's home need to do to improve?

Recommendations

To improve the quality and standards of care further the service should take account of the following recommendation(s):

- Staff should continually and actively assess the risks to each child and the arrangements in place to protect them. In relation to updating the basic components of the child's risk assessment.(The Guide to the Quality Standards, page 42, paragraph 9.5)
- Ensure staff are familiar with the home's policies on record keeping and understand the importance of careful, objective, and clear recording. In relation to the recording of restraints compliant with regulation 35 and incidents occurring within the home. (The Guide to the Quality Standards, page 62, paragraph 14.4)

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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