

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC423617
Inspector	Carole Moore
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Registered manager	Susan Rai
Date of last inspection	20/06/2014

Inspection date	23/03/2015
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Previous inspection	good
Enforcement action since last inspection	none

This inspection

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

At the previous inspection in June 2014, the overall quality rating for this home was judged as good with four recommendations made. This home has continued to improve outcomes for young people and has been judged as having improved effectiveness. No shortfalls have been identified at this inspection.

The Registered Manager has responded promptly to the recommendations that were raised at the last inspection. She has devised a clear evaluation of the effectiveness of all training; ensured the development plan is a working document and involves the staff team and young people; is including young people in the staff appraisals and has a clear procedure for verifying gaps in work history in the recruitment process.

The home promotes and develops effective partnerships with other agencies including the Police, schools, clinical psychologist and placing authorities. As a result of this collaborative approach, young people are better supported and protected.

The Registered Manager continues to strive to improve the service. A clinical psychologist has been employed to meet the emotional needs of the young people and he also attends team meetings to support staff in their management of the young people. Young people have been willing to engage with the therapy and a diary system has been set up to enable the young people to record their thoughts and feelings. This helps to address the complex needs of these young people. There is also a new system in place which the young people have developed to enable them to comment on their day and about the input from staff. Feedback such as; 'Cheers for a lovely day.' 'Dinner was great but a bit crispy.' 'You have been a laugh today.'

A strength of this service is the consultation with young people. They are all

outspoken and happy to raise any issues. Young people also take responsibilities in the home such as ensuring safety checks are carried out at night. This gives them a level of shared responsibility and feel very much that they are involved in how the home is run.

The staff team are capable, experienced and dedicated to making the home a positive and safe place to live. They continue to receive a good range of core and supplementary training that helps them strengthen and develop their role as carers. Staff view young people positively and this is reflected in the relationships that young people have with them. Young people sometimes have very difficult and challenging behaviours that can affect their relationships. This does not discourage staff from providing good quality care with clear boundaries. Safeguarding young people is a priority of the staff team and central to their practice. Young people are supported to keep safe. Sufficient levels of supervision both inside and outside of the home recognise their vulnerabilities. Staff understand their responsibilities and act within clear guidelines. This helps ensure young people are protected.

The Registered Manager regularly monitors all records kept by the home to ensure compliance with the homes policies, identifying any concerns about specific incidents and themes and patterns. There is a new independent visitor who is prepared to challenge. Action is taken to address any issues that are raised.

Information about this children's home

The home provides care for up to three young people who have emotional and/or behavioural difficulties. It aims to develop and prepare young people for a return to family, foster care or independent living. The home is operated by a private company.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
20/06/2014	Full	good
04/03/2014	Interim	inadequate progress
04/04/2013	Full	good
11/10/2012	Interim	good 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.