

Children's homes – Interim inspection

Inspection date	01/02/2017
Unique reference number	SC424280
Type of inspection	Full
Provision subtype	Children's home
Registered provider	Nottingham City Council
Registered provider address	Loxley House, Station Street, Nottingham NG2 3NG

Responsible individual	Kay Sutt
Registered manager	Marcel Reid
Inspector	Amanda Ellis

Inspection date	01/02/2017
Previous inspection judgement	Improved effectiveness
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 last full inspection. At this interim inspection Ofsted judges that it has sustained effectiveness. At the last inspection, three requirements were set, which specifically related to management practice. There have been no complaints since the last inspection. However, the improved complaints system ensures that all complaints are progressed through the formal complaints system. This enables a clear response. The registered manager is in the process of gathering information about the progress, experiences, views and opinions of young people. The manager will use this information to inform his development plans for the home. The registered manager has submitted an up-to-date statement of purpose to Ofsted. This enables the regulator to monitor the purpose, ethos and staffing arrangements of the home. Three recommendations were also set at the last inspection. The registered manager has addressed one of these. This is to ensure that healthcare guidance has been effective in enabling young people to reduce drug or alcohol use. The registered manager has not ensured the completion of the supervision matrix after each supervision. This does not support effective management oversight. Additionally, care planning records are still not consistently inclusive of young people's views. There have been no young people admitted to or discharged from the home since the last inspection. The home provides care for two young people who are stable in their placements. Their progress since admission is very apparent. Both young people are engaged in training or education. Staff are persistent in supporting young people to persevere with their education and training when they encounter difficulties. This has meant improvements in attendance and attainment. A key success of the home has been promoting the independence skills of both young people. One young person can now use public transport and walk to the shops on his own and has been able to attend the cinema unaccompanied. This independence is something which has widened the young person's horizons and increased his self-esteem. The other young person is now in a traineeship of her choice, with the possibility of a further apprenticeship. These achievements are essential in improving the long-term life chances of young people. The registered manager routinely undertakes internal monitoring of the operation of the home. Additionally, monthly reports from the home's independent visitor	

support the quality assurance processes. Managers act on shortfalls identified within these reports in a timely manner. This supports the home's development and ensures ongoing progression and improvement.

Information about this children's home

This is a local authority children's home which provides care for two children who have emotional and behavioural difficulties.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
09/11/2016	Full	Good
09/12/2015	Interim	Improved effectiveness
10/08/2015	Full	Good
26/02/2015	Interim	Improved effectiveness

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 recommendations:

- Children should be encouraged by staff to see the home's records as 'living documents' supporting them to view and contribute to the records in a way that reflects their voice on a regular basis. ('Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards', page 58, paragraph 11.19)
- A record of supervision should be kept for staff, including the manager. In addition, records should include details of why supervisions have not taken place. The record should provide evidence that supervision is being delivered in line with regulation 33(4)(b). ('Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards', page 61, paragraph 13.3)

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 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 that 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. Whenever possible, they talked to children, young people and their families. In addition, the inspectors 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 whom 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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