

Children's homes - interim inspection

Inspection date	09/12/2015
Unique reference number	SC424280
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home
Registered person	Nottingham City Council
Registered person address	Nottingham City Council, Loxley House, Station Street, NOTTINGHAM, NG2 3NG

Responsible individual	Kay Sutt
Registered manager	Marcel Reid
Inspector	Amanda Ellis

Inspection date	09/12/2015
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 improved effectiveness. At the home's full inspection in August 2015 there were two recommendations to improve practice. These were in relation to radicalisation awareness for staff, and missing from care return interviews for young people. Since this time, the manager has implemented online and direct radicalisation training for the staff team. In addition, managers and staff work closely with the police and a local asylum seekers' forum. These improvements ensure there is a knowledgeable team of staff who are vigilant in protecting young people from potential radicalisation. The arrangements for missing from care return interviews are now more independent. This enables young people to speak openly about reasons underpinning episodes when they are absent from care. These improvements strengthen the home's safeguarding ability. Since the last inspection there have been no young people who have left or been admitted to the home. The purpose of the home is to provide long-term care with the aim of an eventual successful transition to semi-independence or independence. The success of the home in achieving its aims is reflected by the stability of the young people who have remained in placement. Young people continue to do well and progress. Educational attendance and attainment are particularly good, with young people having high attendance and good achievements. Young people are ambitious and have aspirations for continuing education. Staff celebrate this success and support young people in their education. Young people have their complex emotional and psychological needs met by the knowledgeable staff team. Staff are proactive in working with child and adolescent mental health services. This collaboration is essential in enabling young people with self-injurious behaviours to access appropriate emotional and psychological support. Improvements since the last inspection include a significant reduction in self-injurious behaviours and young people more able to self-regulate their behaviours.	

Safeguarding incidents in this home have reduced over time and are infrequent. Where they do occur, safeguarding arrangements are robust. Staff are knowledgeable and understand how to implement appropriate procedures and processes. This ensures a timely response to minimise risk and potential harm. The registered manager ensures all safeguarding incidents are urgently notified to relevant agencies. This enables a multidisciplinary response and transparency in reviewing the home's safeguarding practice.

Arrangements to respond to young people who are missing from care are robust and well implemented. Staff have close links with a local police officer, who monitors the welfare of looked after children and young people. Furthermore, staff have up-to-date knowledge and skills which enable them to understand and respond to young people missing from care. They use the relevant policies and protocols to enable a multi-agency response to episodes where young people are absent from the home. Incidents of young people missing from care have significantly reduced since the last inspection.

Young people's views, wishes and feelings are taken seriously. The complaints procedure is accessible and clearly outlined in the children's guide. Complaints are taken seriously. The manager ensures that when young people express concerns or a complaint he initiates a rigorous investigation and provides young people with a timely response. These processes ensure young people feel safe, they know their views are important and they are valued.

Robust quality assurance arrangements monitor, and where necessary improve, the quality of care provided. The registered manager conducts internal quality assurance audits. In addition, an external quality assurance person visits the home each month and reports on the quality of care provided. These combined processes demonstrate a focused commitment to drive forward service development by leaders and managers. The registered manager has a clear understanding of service development and a focus on continual improvement.

Information about this children's home

This registered children's home is operated by a local authority. The home may provide care and accommodation for up to two children with emotional and/or behavioural difficulties.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
10/08/2015	Full	Good
26/02/2015	Interim	Improved effectiveness
04/07/2014	Full	Good
28/02/2014	Interim	Satisfactory 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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