

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC424280
Inspector	Caroline Brailsford
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 Sylvia Sutt
Registered manager	Marcel Winston Reid
Date of last inspection	04/07/2014

Inspection date	26/02/2015
Previous inspection	good
Enforcement action since last inspection	There has been no enforcement activity.

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 last inspection this home was judged as good. There were three requirements made which have been met. In addition, there were two recommendations made which have also been met. This shows the commitment from the Registered Manager and staff to ensure that the home has improved in it's effectiveness since the last inspection.

Improvements since the last inspection include the risk assessment process, where the risks are now all identified. Staff have received training in attachment and child sexual exploitation issues so that they are working with the most up-to-date information and initiatives. The young person's guide is also improved because it now has the details of Ofsted, should any young person wish to contact them about any aspect of their care. There are improvements to leisure opportunities to ensure that young people are able to enjoy their interests and develop confidence in their skills. For example young people have been on holidays, have tried dancing lessons and joined the gym. In addition, there is information kept in the home about young people's educational achievements and difficulties, so that gaps can be identified and barriers to progress can be removed.

Young people are admitted according to the home's Statement of Purpose, which is to provide them with a settled placement. There is careful consideration of the needs of the young person and the potential impact on other young people in the home, both at the admissions stage and during the placement. This ensures safety and welfare and ensures that needs can be met.

Where young people move on, their time at the home is celebrated with them through the use of photographs and discussions with staff about the good times. Staff carefully consider the young person's wishes and the move is managed in a

way that causes the least disruption to their progress. Young people regularly meet with staff and receive a high level of support during this time. This helps them to understand what is happening and ensures that they can express their views, ensuring that they are always at the centre of the work taking place.

Young people have very positive relationships with staff and managers. Young people like the staff and feel extremely able to talk to them. Very regular meetings take place between young people and staff where quality time is spent discussing aspects of care. Young people are able to explore a wide range of issues which identify any difficulties in progression. Staff are extremely forward thinking and actively seek solutions so that young people can continue to make good progress.

Safety has an extremely high profile in the home and young people feel safer than they were before their admission. Their instances of self-harm reduce and they go missing less as a consequence of the support they receive. The support network in the home allows for young people to extensively explore issues about their safety and welfare. Staff take every opportunity to point out personal safety issues to young people wherever possible and they respond extremely well to this. They learn about how to protect themselves and to stay as safe as possible. Young people also have access to and engage well with a wide range of professionals and local support groups to gain as much support as possible. This gives them different avenues to explore their issues and feelings. For example, young people have access to local groups to support young people with child sexual exploitation issues. Overall young people's safety improves during their time at the home. One Social Worker commented on this saying that their placed young person had 'come on in leaps and bounds'.

When young people go missing, staff strive to find them as soon as possible. They work very well with other professionals such as placing authorities and the police, who speak very highly of the staff's work in this area, especially in relation to child sexual exploitation issues. This good collaborative working ensures that all professionals have the most up-to-date information to make important decisions about a young person's safety.

Risk assessments capture all risks fully and staff are extremely competent in their knowledge of current local protocols. This keeps young people as safe as possible. The documented risk assessments do not always fully capture the extent of staffs' expertise in this area. The documented actions to take do not provide staff with the step by step instructions on action to take. This has not impacted on young people to date as staff have shown their skills and knowledge about required processes. However, this has the potential to impact on young people in the future. This is because the steps that staff should take to protect young people are not made clear in the risk assessment documentation. In addition, young people do receive a return interview on their return from missing episodes, but the documents are not readily accessible in the home. Therefore, there is the potential for information to be missed by staff and in the managers own monitoring of the home.

All young people make good progress with their education from an early stage. Education has a high profile and it is seen as essential for young people to regularly attend, so that they can make as much progress as possible. As a result, young people are developing high aspirations for their future. They are fully encouraged in all their achievements and close working relationships with schools ensure that young people's progress is maximised. For example regular meetings with teaching staff and telephone calls ensure good information sharing. Where issues are identified actions can be taken to remove barriers to learning.

Information about this children's home

This is a local authority managed children's home which provides care and accommodation for two young people with emotional or behavioural difficulties.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
04/07/2014	Full	good
28/02/2014	Interim	satisfactory progress
23/05/2013	Full	good
22/01/2013	Interim	inadequate progress

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

Recommendations

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

- Ensure that the care and support to young people minimises the risk that they will go missing and reduces the risk of harm should they go missing; this is in particular relation to the documented risk assessments. (NMS 5.1)
- ensure that written records are kept by the home when a child goes missing; this is in particular relation to the return interview. (NMS 5.10)

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.