

Children's homes - interim inspection

Inspection date	08/12/2015
Unique reference number	SC424351
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	Matthew Lewis
	Emma Read
Inspector	Amanda Ellis

Inspection date	08/12/2015
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 sustained effectiveness. At the home's full inspection in July 2015 there were two recommendations made in relation to radicalisation awareness and missing from care monitoring. Since this time, the manager has implemented online and direct radicalisation training for the staff team. Risk assessments now include a separate section on the indicators and assessment of radicalisation. These improvements ensure there is a knowledgeable staff team that is vigilant in protecting young people from potential radicalisation. The management oversight of missing from care episodes and the outcome of return interviews are now more coordinated. This ensures managers have a full understanding of the reasons and triggers for young people who go missing from the home. These improvements strengthen the home's safeguarding ability. This home provides long-term care for young people until they become independent. There have been no new admissions or discharges since the last inspection. Staff provide effective care to meet the individualised emotional and behavioural needs of young people. They are dedicated and committed to provide care to young people who are developing through adolescence into early adulthood. This home continues to enable young people to make positive progress and have positive outcomes. Young people benefit from living in a safe and secure environment. Safeguarding procedures are robust and well understood. A skilled staff team implements protocols and procedures effectively when young people are missing from care. Staff are proactive in working with a range of safeguarding professionals and parents to manage these issues. The home has a very low level of safeguarding issues, which reflects the stability of the young people. Some young people make good progress in their education, with good attendance and attainment within college. Where young people are reluctant to make choices in relation to further education, the home works closely with appropriate agencies to find suitable college provision. However, these arrangements are not effective, with some young people choosing not to attend any form of education.	

The development of independence skills forms part of the daily routine of the home. Young people learn to take some responsibility for tasks such as cleaning their bedrooms, managing their laundry, and helping with tidying the home. Additionally, they are encouraged and supported to participate in independence plans to build on budgeting and self-care skills. Consequently, over time, young people acquire the necessary life skills to live independently.

Management arrangements in the home have changed since the last inspection. The current manager gained registered manager status with Ofsted in October 2015. The manager works alongside senior residential care workers to implement a range of strategies to improve care practice and staff development.

Arrangements for staff support are robust, with the staff receiving regular supervision, team meetings and a programme of mandatory training. This means the staff team has the necessary knowledge and skills to provide a good quality of care to young people. Staff confirm that they feel supported and that the manager's professional skills and expertise are having a positive impact on the progress of young people.

This is a well-managed home where robust internal quality assurance contributes to standards of quality care provision. Additionally, an independent person visits the home each month and reports on the effectiveness of the home in delivering care to the young people. These dual processes ensure consistency in care and resolve shortfalls. The manager has development plans to ensure systematic planning of improvements. This demonstrates a focused commitment by managers to develop the home.

Young people benefit from a homely and comfortable environment. The interior and exterior of the home are of a high specification and provide secure and safe accommodation. The interior of the home is personalised, with high standards of décor and furnishings.

The home has sustained progress since the last inspection. The manager is clear about what is necessary to ensure that young people receive high standards of care.

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
28/07/2015	Full	Good
27/01/2015	Interim	Declined in effectiveness
10/06/2014	Full	Good
21/01/2014	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):

- Where children placed in a home are not participating in education, the registered person and staff must work closely with the placing authority so that the child is supported and enabled to resume full-time education as soon as possible. In the interim, the child should be supported to sustain or regain their confidence in education and be engaged in suitable structured activities. (The Guide to the Quality Standards, page 28, paragraph 5.15)

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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