

Children's homes - interim inspection

Inspection date	26/01/2016
Unique reference number	SC429995
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home
Registered person	A Significant Other Limited
Registered person address	Green Towers, Thislewood Lane, Wolsingham, BISHOP AUCKLAND, County Durham, DL13 3HQ

Responsible individual	Donna Thorne
Registered manager	Donna Thorne
	Elizabeth Bennett
Inspector	Colin Imrie

Inspection date	26/01/2016
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. The home is settled and the new manager has now been in post for ten months and has been able to establish herself. The home offers a broadly therapeutic approach and keeps a number of animals on the small holding attached to the house so that care of the animals by the young people can act as a therapeutic intervention. The staff team offer a nurturing approach to the young people and this strategy has enabled some of the young people to make good progress. However not all of the young people have made such good progress. Of the four young people looked after during the period since the last inspection one has made very good progress and one has not made a great deal of progress. Two other young people have made progress in some aspects of their lives but not in all areas. One young person who has clearly blossomed at the home has found full time employment on a local farm, has taken an agriculture qualification at college and is about to move to independence. This is a real success story and the success has been recognised by the placing authority with an award at a recent award ceremony. Two other young people have made progress in terms of making better relationships and of growing in confidence and resilience. They have made some progress in their education but this has been limited. One other young person who had initially made good progress at the home has now partly disengaged from the home and staff, preferring to live at a different home. He has increased his risky drug taking behaviour and this is becoming more dangerous. Staff now need to work with this young person to plan his ongoing care and accommodation. Overall, staff need to make a greater effort to establish better daily routines to ensure young people are up and engaging in appropriate education on a more regular basis and that they are encouraged to engage in community activities that would take them out of the house more often. These young people have been allowed too much choice as to when and how they engage and this has not been	

particularly helpful for them.

Staff have supported the young people to develop better contact with their families and this has been a noticeable strength of the service.

The manager does monitor care well and uses a system of measuring progress that identifies where good progress has been made and where progress has not been made. This works well in that enables priorities to be identified in care planning. Key working does take place and does address these issues.

Several of the young people have made complaints and these have been dealt with well by the staff and manager.

Most of the children at this home are kept safe. One young person has engaged in some risk taking behaviour. This has mostly happened during periods of home leave when this young person has gone missing on four occasions and has taken illegal drugs. No other young people have gone missing.

Staff have only carried out one restraint and this was used appropriately. The staff do not rely on sanctions and have a series of incentives in place to promote positive behaviour. These work some of the time.

The manager has established good contacts with other services and professionals although sometimes the actions needed have been slow to arrive. The manager has escalated concerns about missing from home return interviews not being carried out and these have now been completed. A number of support services have been arranged for several of the young people but they have refused to engage completely in some of these.

The home is well kept and is free of any health and safety issues. Risk assessments around the animals are good and appropriate.

At the last inspection a number of requirements were made. The manager has addressed these issues. The children's guide has been updated, safeguarding notifications have been made appropriately, supervisions are carried as required and the manager is engaging appropriately with other agencies and professionals.

Three requirements have been made at this inspection. More work is required to establish better routines for the young people, young people need more support and encouragement to attend full time education and more work is required to support young people to attend more social and community based activities.

Information about this children's home

The home is run by a private organisation and is registered for the care and accommodation of up to four children with emotional and/or behavioural difficulties (EBD)

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
18/08/2015	Full	Good
16/01/2015	Interim	Sustained Effectiveness
22/10/2014	Full	Good
27/01/2014	Interim	Satisfactory Progress

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

Statutory Requirements

This section sets out the actions which must be taken so that the registered person/s meets the Care Standards Act 2000, Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015 and the *Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards*. The registered person(s) must comply with the given timescales.

Requirement	Due date
6. In order to meet the quality and purpose of care standard, with particular reference to having a more robust approach to helping young people establish appropriate routines and behaviour, the registered person must ensure that staff – (2)(b)(vi) help each child to develop resilience and skills that prepare the child to return home, to live in a new placement or to live independently as an adult.	27/03/2016
8. In order to meet the education standard, with particular reference to supporting young people to attend full time education and/or training, the registered person must ensure that staff – (2)(a)(i) help each child to achieve the child's education and training targets, as recorded in the child's relevant plans.	27/03/2016
9. In order to meet the enjoyment and achievement standard, with particular reference to supporting young people to participate more in community based activities, the registered person must ensure that staff help each child to – (2)(a)(ii) participate in activities that the child enjoys and which meet and expand the child's interests and preferences.	27/03/2016

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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