

Children's homes - interim inspection

Inspection date	13/01/2016
Unique reference number	SC442401
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home
Registered person	ROC Northwest Limited
Registered person address	Heyes House, 41 Silverdale Road, Arnside, CARNFORTH, Lancashire, LA5 0AL

Responsible individual	Hilary Waterhouse
Registered manager	Peter Whitworth
Inspector	Janine Shortman-Thomas

Inspection date	13/01/2016
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 improved effectiveness. The home has demonstrated continued improvement by suitably addressing the two requirements and one good practice recommendation raised at the last inspection. Staff have received appropriate training and are fully aware of their roles and responsibilities when carrying out any physical interventions. As a result staff now complete detailed records of all physical interventions which include a description of any injuries to the child or any other person, and what, if any, medical treatment is administered, as a result of the measure. Children and young people are now suitably supported to undertake any additional identified school work within the home environment as this is clearly recorded in their activity planners and understood by the staff team. Furthermore the Registered Manager's detailed knowledge of the services provided by the Virtual Head Teacher, has ensured that all young people are now in receipt of an appropriate and suitable education provision designed to meet their specific needs. Children and young people make good progress in all aspects of their lives and are optimistic about their future. This is because they benefit from living in a stable, comfortable, child-focused and supportive home. Young people talk affectionately about their relationships with staff, their peers and the experiences offered to them by the dedicated and stable staff team. Children and young people report that they feel safe, are listened too and, that their lives experiences have improved as a result of the care and actions of the staff. One young person said: 'It is brilliant here. The staff are great and they always listen to me. I have been out quad biking for the first time, which was great. This is the best place that I have ever lived in.' Children and young people enjoy a wide range of stimulating and purposeful activities which promotes their confidence, social development and social relationships. They are supported to engage in regular swimming lessons, partake in horse riding, tai boxing, drama and singing lessons as well as enjoying trips to the cinema, bowling, go-carting and having social meals out. In addition to supporting children and young people widen their social networks, staff proactively advocate and facilitate family contact for all children and young people. As a result children and young people now benefit from increased contact with those who are	

significant to them.

Detailed and thorough transition planning ensures young people are supported and prepared well for their transition into and out of the home. Staff support young people sensitively during their transition process, and the manager regularly reviews the progress of the young person's transition plan to ensure that this is undertaken safely and at the young person's pace. This care practice ensures young people receive the correct level of care and support during significant periods in their lives.

Staff remain committed to children and young people. Their relationships are strong and are cemented in trust as staff understand and take seriously their corporate parenting responsibilities. As a result children and young people enjoy warm relationships with each other and the staff team, and respect and comply with the boundaries and routines provided within the home. As a consequence, the use of sanctions and restraints are minimal.

Effective and positive working relationships with a range of partner agencies ensure all children and young people receive the care and support specific to their individual needs promptly. Staff understand their safeguarding roles and responsibilities and respond to any such events appropriately. When children or young people do go missing from home, staff are acutely aware of their roles and responsibilities and implement the risk assessments which are in place. Staff make satisfactory efforts to locate young people and inform the police, with whom they have developed effective working relationships with, as highlighted within individual young people's plans. Staff maintain contact with placing local authorities and parents and welcome young people home when they do return. The staff undertake direct work with young people which increases their knowledge of the potential dangers and risks associated with this behaviour. As a consequence of the effective partnership working with other agencies and work undertaken with young people the numbers of missing from home incidents have reduced.

Allegations or suspicion of harm are addressed effectively. The leaders and manager consistently handle all concerns promptly while maintaining an appropriate level of consultation with all relevant agencies. For example, open levels of communication are maintained with children and young people, their families, the Local Authority Designated Officer and social workers. This ensures that the safety and welfare of children and young people and staff is suitably promoted.

Staff are dedicated and committed to a high standard of care to all young people. They receive regular and effective training, supervision, and attend regular and informative team meetings which now includes quizzes and questions to test and stretch staff knowledge and skills. This ongoing and effective support ensures that all the staff can continue to develop professionally and consistently meet children and young people's present and emerging needs.

The home benefits from the strong and effective management arrangements. The Registered Manager is committed to the improvement agenda. He regularly seeks feedback from children and young people and the staff, and analyses this to identify what further work needs to be undertaken to continue to improve the lives and experiences for children and young people; while maintaining their safety and promoting their well-being. The manager has a good understanding of the strengths and areas for continued development for the service and is committed to driving this forward.

Children and young people live in a well maintained, safe home. Some young people have been involved in the recent redecoration of their rooms, such as choosing the colour scheme for their walls, with others agreeing with the manager's choice of floor covering for their bedrooms. Children and young people are actively encouraged to personalise their rooms and proudly show off the photographs of themselves, friends and family members, alongside their certificates and works of art.

There have been no breaches in the regulations identified within this inspection, nor have any good practice recommendations been made.

Information about this children's home

- This children's home is owned and managed by a private company. It provides care and accommodation for no more than five children and young people who have emotional and/or behavioural difficulties, physical disabilities and learning disabilities.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
30/06/2015	CH - Full	Good
10/02/2015	CH - Interim	Sustained effectiveness
05/06/2014	CH - Full	Good
26/02/2014	CH - Interim	Good 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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