

SC453726

Registered provider: Aston Children's Care Limited

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home provides care and accommodation for up to four young people, aged between eight and 18, who have complex behaviours due to childhood trauma. The home is privately owned. The manager has applied to Ofsted to become the registered manager.

Inspection dates: 20 to 21 June 2018

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people, taking into account	good
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How well children and young people are helped and protected	good
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The effectiveness of leaders and managers	good
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The children's home provides effective services that meet the requirements for good.

Date of last inspection: 12 September 2017

Overall judgement at last inspection: requires improvement to be good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
12/09/2017	Full	Requires improvement to be good
21/03/2017	Interim	Declined in effectiveness
24/08/2016	Full	Good
30/03/2016	Interim	Sustained effectiveness

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

Statutory requirements

This section sets out the actions that the registered person(s) must take to meet 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 within the given timescales.

Requirement	Due date
The leadership and management standard is that the registered person enables, inspires and leads a culture in relation to the children's home that, helps children aspire to fulfil their potential; and promotes their welfare In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to use monitoring and review systems to make continuous improvements in the quality of care provided in the home. (Regulation 13(1)(a)(b)(2)(h))	23/07/2018
The registered person must ensure that within 5 days of the use of the measure, the registered person or the authorised person adds to the record confirmation that they have spoken to the child about the measure. (Regulation 35(3)(c))	23/07/2018
The registered person must review the appropriateness and suitability of the location of the premises used for the purposes of the children's home at least once in each calendar year. (Regulation 46(1))	23/07/2018

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

Young people enjoy positive relationships with staff and each other. Staff are patient, caring and understanding of young people's individual needs. As a result, young people experience positive and healthy relationships.

The home has good links with young people's schools. This support means that all young people access appropriate education. Staff are proactive in helping young people to address any issues that arise in school. This approach supports young people to overcome barriers to their learning so that academic success can be achieved.

Young people are encouraged and supported to try new things. For example, young people make the most of their local community and often attend 'flip out' which is a local club. Two young people attend football clubs.

Staff complete key-work sessions to help review young people's needs and areas of risk. These sessions give young people the opportunity to reflect on their behaviour and to have a chance to discuss any worries. However, these sessions are not always well recorded. The absence of detailed recording means that the opportunity for the manager and staff to review the effectiveness of these sessions is lost.

Young people are supported to contribute their thoughts and ideas to young people's meetings. For example, discussing new activities and meal choices. This inclusion means that young people feel that they are valued members of the household.

Staff facilitate family contact. Staff will often supervised contact to further enable young people to spend time with their family. This support has helped strengthen relationships with family members.

How well children and young people are helped and protected: good

Safeguarding concerns are well managed by the registered manager, with prompt monitoring of incidents and quick referral to safeguarding agencies. The manager works in partnership with safeguarding agencies. Concerns about young people's welfare are notified to Ofsted and show that appropriate safeguarding action is taken as concerns arise.

Young people are safe at the home. Risk assessments are clear and updated after incidents. On the occasions when physical restraint is necessary to prevent serious harm, the records made by staff receive management oversight. However, the recordings do not always reflect young people's views and feelings about the physical restraint. This hinders the opportunity of effective monitoring and review.

Safe recruitment practice ensures that anyone employed in the home is safe to work with young people.

The current group of young people have not been missing from the home. However, when these incidents have occurred in the past, staff have talked to the young people to try and understand the reasons behind their change in behaviour. This positive work means that young people receive the help that they need to stay safe.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The manager and staff are committed to helping young people to make progress in all areas of their lives. The recent stability of the team has increased staff morale and desire to improve outcomes for young people. Staff feel supported by the manager. The team has worked hard to meet the requirements and recommendations made at the last inspection.

Staff consistently have good-quality supervision which focuses on the needs of young people. This means that there are opportunities to reflect and learn from staff members' current practice.

The manager has ensured that all staff are qualified to level 3 in residential childcare within the required period. This qualification enables staff the opportunity to develop their knowledge and skills required when working with young people in a residential childcare setting.

Staff receive the necessary training to enable them to meet the young people's individual day-to-day needs. There is a detailed training plan in place to enhance specialist training for staff.

The manager has developed an assessment to consider the suitability of the location of the premises in accordance to each young person's presenting need. However, the manager has failed to ensure that the assessment is specific to the home's locality. This leaves staff ill-prepared in managing risk within the wider community.

The manager works well with families and professionals. This approach is central to practice in the home and ensures that the service meets the aims and objectives contained in the statement of purpose.

Information about this inspection

Inspectors have looked closely at the experiences and progress of children and young people. Inspectors considered the quality of work and the differences made to the lives of children and young people. They watched how professional staff work with children and young people and each other and discussed the effectiveness of help and care provided. Wherever possible, they talked to children and 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 whom it is trying to help, protect and look after.

Using the 'Social care common inspection framework', this inspection was carried out under the Care Standards Act 2000 to assess the effectiveness of the service, how it meets the core functions of the service as set out in legislation, 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'.

Children's home details

Unique reference number: SC453726

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Aston Children's Care Limited

Registered provider address: 73 Dudley Road, Dudley, West Midlands DY3 1TF

Responsible individual: Mahesh Mehan

Registered manager: Post vacant

Inspector

Lisa Walsh: social care inspector

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