

Children's homes – Interim inspection

Inspection date	21/03/2017
Unique reference number	SC453726
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home
Registered provider	Aston Children's Care Ltd
Registered provider address	73 Dudley Road, Dudley, West Midlands DY3 1TF

Responsible individual	Mahesh Mehan
Registered manager	Terence Bull
Inspector	Sandra King

Inspection date	21/03/2017
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 judges that it has declined in effectiveness. Young people who present with concerning behaviours and are at risk of harm do not benefit from structured and regular key-work sessions to address these concerns. Key-work sessions do take place. However, staff do not focus on young people's behaviours and actions. For example, during one session a young person stated that seeing his friends 'smoke weed' is what he had enjoyed that month. Staff did not update his risk assessments and no further work was undertaken with the young person regarding substance misuse. Some young people have been involved in setting fires when out in the community. Staff have not engaged the young people in any follow-up work to educate them regarding the dangers of fire. Staff do not meet young people's health needs. Some young people who are on long-term prescribed medication refuse to continue taking it. For example, there are no records on or after 1 August 2016 showing the administration of medicine to one young person. This indicates that the young person has refused the medication. Although staff sought medical advice initially, the advice was not followed. The manager had intended to discuss this issue during an appointment with the child, adolescent and mental health services (CAMHS) practitioner, but the young person refused to attend the appointment and further medical advice was not sought. Consequently, the young person has not been taking long-term prescribed medication for more than seven months. The standard of the property is satisfactory in most areas. However, there are some trip hazards created by poorly fitted carpets. Framed documents, activity planners and menu planners hanging on walls in the hallway do not create a homely feel. For example, one framed document details the fines that young people will incur should they go into the office without permission. Another document details a long list of the house rules. Furthermore, young people's bedrooms are poorly presented and are not personalised. A young person who has lived in the home for approximately 12 months said that they are still waiting for their bedroom to be decorated. The deputy manager acknowledged that the home would benefit from some 'softening'. As a result, the home has an institutionalised feel.	

The requirement from the last inspection has been met. As a result, young people now express their views about the home they live in. However, these views are not yet embedded in the day-to-day running of the home. There is no feedback given to the young people in respect of their views. Consequently, young people do not have confidence that their views are taken seriously. Moreover, the manager does not use their feedback to inform the development of the quality of care provided in the home.

Information about this children's home

This children's home is privately operated and provides care and accommodation for up to four young people who have emotional and/or behavioural difficulties.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
24/08/2016	Full	Good
30/03/2016	Interim	Sustained effectiveness
10/11/2015	Full	Good
12/02/2015	Interim	Sustained effectiveness

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 within the given timescales.

Requirement	Due date
10: The health and well-being standard In order to meet the health and well-being standard, the registered person must ensure that: (1)(a) the health and well-being needs of children are met (b) children receive advice, services and support in relation to their health and well-being.	02/05/2017
12: The protection of children standard In order to meet the protection of children standard, the registered person must ensure: (2)(a)(ii) that staff help each child to understand how to keep safe (d) that the premises used for the purposes of the home are designed, furnished and maintained so as to protect each child from avoidable hazards to the child's health.	02/05/2017
13: The leadership and management standard In order to meet the leadership and management standard, the registered person must: (2)(f) understand the impact that the quality of care provided in the home is having on the progress and experiences of each child and use this understanding to inform the development of the quality of care provided in the home.	02/05/2017
The registered person must make arrangements for the handling, recording, safekeeping, safe administration and disposal of medicines received into the children's home. In particular, the registered person must ensure that medicine which is prescribed for a child is administered as prescribed to the child for whom it is prescribed and to no other child; and a record is kept of the	02/05/2017

administration of medicine to each child. (Regulation 23 (1)(2)(b)(c))	
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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 that 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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