

Children's homes - interim inspection

Inspection date	01/02/2016
Unique reference number	SC457132
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home
Registered manager	John Minty
Inspector	Norma Welsby

Inspection date	01/02/2016
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. This is a well-managed home providing very personalised care and support to one young person. The Registered Manager is very experienced and well respected by the staff team. Along with a small staff team they work effectively together to provide a stable, homely and nurturing environment. Young people benefit from the focussed attention they receive and are able to make progress in many areas of their lives. The young person feels very positive about the quality of the home and how well she has done since living there and said; 'I have never really settled anywhere but I have here. I get on great with all the staff and they have helped me a lot'. Family too are complimentary about the placement and said it had been very 'positive and has really helped with independence'. Relationships between staff and young people are excellent. Great attention is paid to establishing positive attachments and trust. Staff speak openly with young people about their responsibility to keep them safe. They also work hard to develop young people's better awareness of how to keep themselves safe. There is a very positive approach taken to the management of young people's behaviour. Young people benefit from being praised and rewarded and very few sanctions are used. Physical restraints have not been used for several years. When incidents occur of young people going missing from the home, the staff team have a really good understanding of why. They work effectively in partnership with social workers and others to minimise risks and achieve a reduction in incidents. Staff also ensure that young people have a voice, by consulting them directly and encouraging them to participate in meetings, but also by facilitating young people's access to independent advocacy. Staff are experienced and suitably qualified. They provide good continuity of care with clear boundaries and expectations. At the full inspection in November 2015 a recommendation was made to ensure that the home's Statement of Purpose was updated and reflects that the home is able to respond effectively to young people's changing assessed needs. This has been completed and staff continue to support young people well. During this inspection it was identified that as young people's needs continue to change, staff require some additional specialist training to	

ensure they are fully equipped with the skills needed to maintain consistently effective care and support. It was also identified that staff would benefit from some additional training in life story work, so that they can help young people to build a picture of important life events and develop their emotional resilience as they prepare for significant life changes in the future.

Young people are supported to live healthy lifestyles. Good attention is given to promoting healthy eating and teaching young people to cook wholesome, homemade meals. Staff also ensure young people have access to a range of healthcare professionals and specialist support. In this way, young people learn to make positive choices and how to keep themselves healthy.

The home provides a very domestic and comfortable environment. Young people are able to personalise it and treat it as their home. They can have pets and are supported to develop their skills and sense of responsibility for the care of their animals. Young people have access to domestic appliances, which they use regularly and in doing so become very accomplished in a wide range of domestic tasks. Staff also help young people to learn how to be sensible with their money and to budget. These opportunities provide young people with the chance to learn important skills and to develop their personal confidence as they prepare for adulthood and the potential to live more independently.

Information about this children's home

This children's home is registered to provide care and accommodation for one young person with emotional and behavioural difficulties. The home is run by a national private provider that also operates other children's homes in the area.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
17/11/2015	CH - Full	Good
04/02/2015	CH - Interim	sustained effectiveness
08/10/2014	CH - Full	Good
22/01/2014	CH - Interim	Inadequate 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
33: Employment of staff The registered person must ensure that all employees undertake appropriate continuing professional development. In particular this refers to specialist training to equip staff with the skills to meet young people's changing needs. (Regulation 33(4)(a))	14/03/2016

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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