

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC471178
Inspector	Pauline Yates
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Registered person	Dove Adolescent Services Limited
Registered person address	170 Southgate Pontefract West Yorkshire WF8 1QJ
Responsible individual	Barbara Anne Whittaker
Registered manager	Stacy Cooper
Date of last inspection	09/07/2014

Inspection date	10/03/2015
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Previous inspection	good
Enforcement action since last inspection	none

This inspection

This home was judged good at the last full inspection. At this interim inspection Ofsted judge that it has **sustained effectiveness**.

The home continues to provide good quality care to the young people. Since the previous inspection the Registered Manager has introduced further improvements such as risk management documents integrated into care plans. This provides greater clarity for the staff and ensures consistency. To further strengthen this approach all staff have undergone recent training on perception of risk. These developments ensure that the young people's vulnerabilities are carefully assessed by a competent staff team and that plans to address vulnerabilities are focused and up to date. Other improvements include the introduction of action planning and progression documents, and a member of the staff becoming a qualified arts assessor. The former of these changes ensure that the staff and young people can clearly identify: starting points and areas of improvement; and strengths and weaknesses. This supports the young people's sense of confidence and self-worth as their achievements over a period of time is more distinct and evident. The young people also benefit from having their art work and projects formally recognised and certified. This supports and encourages their talents in art based activities and enhances their sense of achievement.

Young people new to the home are welcomed in a planned manner. This ensures their immediate needs can be suitably met and their vulnerabilities are understood by the staff. For the young people who leave the home the staff work hard to ensure that this transition is completed in close liaison with local authority social workers and partner agencies, and that the young person's needs continue to be met until this change is successfully completed.

All the young people have suitably identified educational provision and for most young people their attendance is very high. For some young people for whom attendance is problematic, staff work hard to ensure that they are encouraged to attend and that alternative courses or training are identified which suit their

aspirations and needs.

The high levels of staffing, adherence to risk assessments and missing from home protocols ensure that the risk from missing from home incidences is minimised. The staff are particularly active in keeping in touch and monitoring the young people's whereabouts. This has resulted in a reduction in missing from home incidences and when absences occur staff are fully aware of the young person's whereabouts.

The young people benefit from the positive relationships which exist between themselves and the staff. The young people are supported and encouraged to develop their talents in music and the arts which has led to the young people expressing themselves through a positive medium. All the young people have taken part in exploration through music, which has included writing their own songs, learning to play instruments and singing. The staff understanding of the young people in their care ensures that their needs are met in holistic and creative ways. The care is consistent and delivered by an experienced staff team. Positive behaviour management strategies provide an effective means of managing young people without the use of physical restraint. One young person commented, 'It's fab here, I really like it, I think its ace.' The young people said they felt safe and are safe at the home.

Strong partnership working with all professionals ensures that any shortfall in services is actively pursued by the Registered Manager. The home works effectively with specialist agencies such as Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services and in-house providers of therapeutic assessment and services. This ensures that the young people's identified needs are met and they continue to make good progress. One placing social worker commented, 'This has been a fantastic placement.'

Information about this children's home

The home is privately owned; registered to provide care and accommodation for up to five young people of either gender with emotional and behavioural difficulties. The main house has four bedrooms and there is a separate self-contained semi-independence flat.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
09/07/2014	Full	good

What inspection judgements mean

At the interim inspections 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

The purpose of this inspection is to assure children and young people, parents, the public, local authorities and government of the quality and standard of the service provided. The 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 relevant regulations and meets the national minimum standards.

The report details the main strengths, any areas for improvement, including any breaches of regulation, and any failure to meet national minimum standards. The judgements included in the report are made against the framework of inspection for children's homes.