

Children's homes - interim inspection

Inspection date	26/02/2016
Unique reference number	SC471178
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 Whittaker
Registered manager	Stacy Cooper
Inspector	Debbie Foster

Inspection date	26/02/2016
Previous inspection judgement	Outstanding
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 Outstanding at the full inspection. At this interim inspection Ofsted judge that it has sustained effectiveness. Young people continue to receive superb care. The stable staff team work diligently to meet their needs. Young people say that they get on with all staff. They greatly benefit from these positive relationships, attachments, nurturing approach and the consistent care they receive. Staff persist to support young people's emotional needs with the assistance of mental health services. Staff recognise that young people's journey to build emotional resilience will take time. Young people receive good support with their health. A young person said, 'I go to the dentist and the doctors.' Young people maintain good attendance at school. Where young people experience educational difficulties, staff are proactive to resolve matters and provide solutions. This promotes their wellbeing and learning. Young people, enjoy varied social and leisure activities. Young people said, 'I like to go and play with my friends,' and 'I'm going to the cinema tonight, my friend is coming with us.' Staff continually support young people to rebuild and preserve constructive relationships with family members. This promotes young people's positive identity, self-esteem and provides young people with positive daily life experiences. All young people said, 'We are safe.' Staff demonstrate a very good awareness of young people's individual vulnerabilities and risks. Regular reviews of each young person's risk assessments are undertaken. They are clear on the action to take to reduce risk-taking behaviour. As a result, these behaviours reduce. These involve, going missing, self-harm and challenging behaviour. A young person said, 'Staff check on me every hour when I'm out playing with friends.' The safeguards and strategies used by staff keep young people safe and protect them. Young people live in a positive environment, which is well furnished and decorated. Homely touches, pictures, ornaments and photographs enhance their home. However, recent damage is evident in one bedroom. This detracts from the good standard of the rest of the home.	

Robust internal and external monitoring of the home gives the manager a very good oversight of the service. Thorough communication and support systems exist. For example, daily handovers, regular staff meetings and formal supervision. These systems allow the evaluation of young people's care and identify any decline. Consequently, staff take prompt action to address these shortfalls. This provides young people with sustained and consistent good quality care.

Information about this children's home

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

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
25/11/2015	Full	Outstanding
10/03/2015	Interim	Sustained effectiveness
09/07/2014	Full	Good

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

Recommendations

To improve the quality and standards of care further the service should take account of the following recommendation(s):

- For children's homes to be nurturing and supportive environments that meet the needs of their children, they will, in most cases, be homely, domestic environments. (The Guide the Quality Standards, page 15, paragraph 3.9) In particular, replacement and/or repair the damage to furnishings and decoration in bedrooms.

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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Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

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