

Children's homes - interim inspection

Inspection date	01/03/2016
Unique reference number	SC471581
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home
Registered person	Albrighton Care Ltd
Registered person address	Newmarket Suite 16, Centrix Keys Business Village, Keys Park Road, Hednesford, Staffordshire, WS12 2HA

Responsible individual	Darren Smallman
Registered manager	Isobel Green
Inspector	Rachel Britten

Inspection date	01/03/2016
Previous inspection judgement	Not judged
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 Adequate at the last full inspection. At this interim inspection the home was 'not judged'. No children have lived at the home since August 2015. As a result, no judgement is made. The home is decorated and equipped to a high standard for children who are able to live in a domestic house arranged on two floors. The staff team consists of five members of staff plus the registered manager. Two staff are working at the organisation's other home at present. The other three staff are appointed and inducted but are not currently paid employees. All five of these staff attend the training put on at the other home. The registered manager also manages the organisation's other nearby home where a young person is in residence. The arrangements ensure that the staff group remains ready to take a new child. The manager and registered individual have been actively considering referrals over the last six months. They make robust, careful enquiries to ensure that they have full and accurate information about children before making placement decisions. They are confident and child-centred in this work and check information where necessary with relevant professionals, children's relatives and previous carers. They prefer to meet children and others. They verify the accuracy of information appropriately. At times, this had led to tensions between placing authorities and the organisation because the organisation has discovered later in the process that children's actual needs would not be met by the home. The manager and registered individual are not organising, reviewing and evaluating what they are learning as they seek an appropriate placement. This is missed opportunity to develop their professional practice in this part of their work.	

Information about this children's home

This children's home is operated by a small limited company and can accommodate and provide care for up to two children and young people with learning disabilities.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
14/12/2015	CH - Interim	Not judged
23/02/2015	CH - Interim	Sustained effectiveness
01/07/2014	CH - Full	Adequate

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:

- Ensure that lessons learnt are proactively implemented and good practice is sustained. This is with particular regard to lessons learnt about working with placing authorities in respect of potential new referrals. (The Guide to the Quality Standards, page 55, paragraph 10.24)

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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