

Children's homes - interim inspection

Inspection date	06/08/2015
Unique reference number	SC475706
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home
Registered manager	Mr Lee Riley
Inspector	Ms White

Inspection date	06/08/2015
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 last full inspection. At this interim inspection Ofsted judge that it has sustained effectiveness. Outcomes for young people are good, with all young people showing progress since the last inspection. Relationships with staff are positive and young people feel they are consulted and listened to. Educational outcomes are very good with overall attendance rated at between 95% and 100%. Young people's health needs are met. A previous recommendation to ensure their health needs are fully included in individual care plans is met. This promotes good outcomes and consistent care and support. Activities are a strength. Young people enjoy a wide range of leisure pursuits and their individual hobbies and aspirations are fully supported. A young person said, 'I'm still going to wrestling club. It's what I like to do. I also go to see wrestling matches, which is great.' Young people contribute towards their local community by using activities to fundraise. They have undertaken a sponsored walk and are planning a further three events during the next twelve months. The young people are currently doing internet searches to see what events they would like to join. This teaches young people empathy and the benefits of helping others. A staff member said, 'It's very positive for our young people to do things for others and they really enjoy it.' Transitions to and from the home are good. Young people are given the opportunity to visit the home and other young people prior to being accommodated. Staff also meet with each young person and their parents to talk about any worries they may have. This reassures young people and provides for consultation about their wishes and feelings. The home has progressed by meeting a previous requirement to improve their monitoring. The systems are now more robust in identifying and addressing any concerns raised. Detailed development plans are in place that includes a separate	

development plan for the young people.

Each young person has contributed to the plan and have agreed goals they wish to achieve over the next twelve months. This demonstrates meaningful consultation and inclusion. A young person said, 'Staff talk to us. I think they listen to us, ask us what we think. I can say anything I want.'

Improvements in leadership and management are evident. There are plans to introduce more child-friendly documentation to fully engage young people in their care planning. A new initiative to use restorative measures instead of sanctions is proving popular and successful and inter-agency networking is showing positive results.

Keeping young people safe is seen as paramount. The home has a good working relationship with the host local authority and notifiable events are quickly addressed. Notifications to Ofsted are made in a timely manner. This shows the home operates in an open and transparent way.

Feedback from young people and staff is good. Young people like living at the home and feel they are cared for. Staff morale is high and staff feel supported. A staff member said, 'Everything is good. The home is settled and all the young people are great. We work well together and feel supported.'

The home's consultation records include a number of complimentary statements from parents, social workers and other visiting professionals. Comments include, 'very accommodating staff and a flexible service' and, 'a very positive place for young people to live'. These comments echo the feelings of young people.

Most admissions to the home are appropriate and are in line with the home's Statement of Purpose and conditions of registration. However, there are some key lines of enquiry arising from this inspection linked to accommodating a young person who is currently on a section of The Mental Health Act 2007.

This has not directly impacted on the young person or their placement. Nevertheless, the home has not clearly demonstrated they have taken into account the legal status of the young person or the implications of caring for a sectioned young person in a social care provision. Therefore a new recommendation is made to ensure all young people are placed according to their needs and legal status.

Information about this children's home

This home is registered to provide care and accommodation for 7 children with emotional and behavioural difficulties. It is operated by a private provider.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
29/01/2015	CH - 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):

- Ensure the registered person only accept placements for children where they are satisfied the home can respond effectively to the child's assessed needs and ensure the Statement of Purpose sets out the needs of children the home is set up and equipped to care for. (The Guide to the Quality Standards, page 56 paragraph 11.4)

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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