

Children's homes - interim inspection

Inspection date	15/02/2016
Unique reference number	SC476289
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home
Registered manager	Mark Easie
Inspector	Rachel Griffiths

Inspection date	15/02/2016
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 improved effectiveness. Since the last inspection the registered manager has been swift to address one requirement and two recommendations made, resulting in improvements in the homes functioning. Children and young people's case files now include up to date local authority plans. This helps to ensure that care plans take account of each child's or young person's full range of identified needs. Improvements in relation to the recording of recruitment checks make safeguarding practice even more robust. As a result of additions made to the home's statement of purpose, placing authorities and parents now have clear information about the uniqueness and expertise of this home. Children and young people speak extremely positively about their experiences and the progress they are making. One young person said: 'My life has changed a lot. I now get things, I feel happier, and I go to school. The adults look after us really well. They are kind and really care.' Another commented: 'It is really good here. Everything about it feels safe and everything is going well. School is brilliant, I have lots of friends, I still go horse riding and I now volunteer at the stables.' From their starting points children and young people are making very good progress educationally, socially and emotionally. Consequently, their life experiences and chances significantly improve. Professionals also speak favourably about the home. A children's guardian said: 'The home is outstanding, the quality of care is excellent and the clinical team have also been outstanding'. In respect of progress, a social worker commented: 'This young person is making progress every day and from his starting point it is fantastic. Life story work has helped him to understand where he has come from and the therapy has helped him come to terms with his experiences. His level of insight is now excellent. He now trusts. He has faith in the adults around him who are exceptionally nurturing and consistent in their approach.' As a result, children and young people feel safe and secure and are helped to develop emotional resilience.	

Coordinated working practices between care staff, the therapy team and educational professionals are effective. A social worker said: 'The multi-professional approach has really benefitted this young person, emotionally and behaviourally.' A young person said: 'My behaviour has changed. I used to hurt myself and I was aggressive and hurt adults. Now things have really calmed down because of the help I have had from the adults and the therapists. They are easy to talk to and I can trust them.' Incidents of risky or aggressive behaviours significantly reduce. Children and young people are, and feel, so much safer.

Children's and young people's behaviour continues to be very well managed. Since the last inspection there has been an impressive and significant reduction in the use of physical intervention. Improved recording systems, good management oversight and monitoring, in consultation with the therapy team, have clearly been effective in improving practice in this area.

All children and young people have lived in the home for in excess of two years. They report feeling safe and secure. For those who are coming to the end of their therapeutic journey, they are very well prepared for their transitions to their future placements. Support provided helps them to develop emotional resilience as well as practical and age appropriate life skills. They are fully involved in the planning so that when they do move on, they have a clear understanding of their plan and what to expect. As a result of the excellent support provided during their time in the home and carefully planned transitions, children and young people have the opportunity to develop positive relationships and achieve better outcomes when they move on to the next stage of their lives.

Monitoring and quality assurance systems are robust. They provide for regular consultation with children and young people, parents and professionals. This, alongside the passion and enthusiasm of the manager and the dedication of a very established, skilled and experienced staff team, ensures that the quality of the service and outcomes and experiences for children and young people continue to improve.

Information about this children's home

This children's home provides long-term care and therapy for up to five children and young people with emotional and behavioural difficulties. The registered provider is a private company, operating a range of children's homes across the country.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
20/10/2015	Full	Good
03/02/2015	Full	Good

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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