

Children's homes – Interim inspection

Inspection date	25/01/2017
Unique reference number	SC480655
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home
Registered provider	The Place Young People's Company
Registered provider address	18b Market Place, Nottingham NG13 8AP

Responsible individual	Paul Emmerson
Registered manager	Sharon Stubbs
Inspector	Tracy Murty

Inspection date	25/01/2017
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. Since the last inspection, a new manager has come into post and there have been several changes to the staff team. The new manager has now been approved by Ofsted as the registered manager for this home. She has a wealth of experience and skills in working in similar settings prior to working at this home. Staff spoken with during this inspection reported feeling very well supported in their roles. Three young people have moved out of this home since the last inspection. Two of those moves were planned and involved them being placed together in another children's home run by the same company. The moves for those young people were well planned and involved visits to their new home before they moved in. As they already knew staff and managers, the transition was smooth and they continue to make positive progress. For one of those young people, the move has enabled them to develop their independence skills further and to live in a smaller setting, which better meets their needs. The move for the third young person was as a result of notice being served on their placement by the manager and responsible individual. The move involved a temporary placement being sourced by senior managers, prior to a new permanent placement being identified. The young person involved was consulted and was able to visit prospective new placements before the final move. Ofsted was not advised of the serious concerns around that young person or provided with details of the temporary placement. This reduces the ability of the regulator to have clear oversight of any relevant issues between inspections. A new admission was made to the home recently. The young person did not have the opportunity to visit the home before moving in, but reports feeling settled and has formed positive relationships with staff and managers. Staff continue to work closely with the placing authority and virtual school heads to identify a suitable formal educational placement for this young person. It is to the credit of the staff team that, in the interim period, a clear and detailed educational timetable has been put in place for this young person. There is clear structure to her days, with visits to the library and academic studies being undertaken with her. This reflects the learning ethos of the staff and their commitment to education for all placed	

young people.

The staff team also fully considers the cultural, religious and spiritual needs of young people. They support them to research areas of interest and have provided literature to enable young people to explore and learn more about their backgrounds. Young people report feeling listened to and being able to influence how the home is run. Staff fully support young people to have access to a wide range of social activities. This promotes their full engagement and inclusion in the local and wider community.

At the last inspection, a number of shortfalls were identified. These have been fully addressed. Significant improvements have been made in relation to staff recruitment procedures and processes. This includes full consideration and clear recording of any gaps in employment history and verification of references.

Periodic reviews are now undertaken in relation to the use of motion sensors around the home. Placing authorities sign consent forms for their use and managers in the home now routinely consider the appropriateness of such monitoring systems to ensure that there is no adverse impact on young people's privacy.

Managers have now ensured that the review of the premises has been shared with relevant agencies and professionals. A detailed review and consultation have taken place with relevant bodies, with clear and detailed evidence recorded of all discussions and the feedback received.

Following the last inspection, senior managers appointed a new independent person to undertake the monthly monitoring visits to the home. This person produces detailed reports and recommendations for the registered manager to consider and act upon. This has eradicated any actual or potential conflict of interest and means that the ability of the visitor to make impartial judgements about the quality of care provided is no longer compromised.

Managers have failed to send Ofsted a revised and updated statement of purpose for the home. There have been changes to the staffing structure, registered manager and educational facilities provided by the company, which the regulator should be advised of.

There is a need for managers to ensure that records of any significant events and any sanctions imposed are clear and specific. One record seen during this inspection did not provide a clear account of the behavioural issues for one young person which had led to a sanction being imposed. The sanction imposed was not evaluated by the manager to ensure its effectiveness. This could undermine the effectiveness of any consequences or sanctions put in place and also lead to confusion for young people.

There have been no complaints made by young people or others for a considerable

time in this home. Young people know how to make a complaint and report confidence in doing so. The use of physical restraint is minimal and undertaken by suitably qualified and experienced staff. Records of the use of physical restraint reflect appropriate action being taken and young people understanding why such measures have been used.

Information about this children's home

The home is operated by a small private company which currently has two other registered children's homes in the area. The home can provide care and accommodation for up to four children and young people who have emotional and/or behavioural difficulties

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
28/06/2016	Full	Good
21/12/2015	Interim	Improved effectiveness
28/07/2015	Full	Good

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

Statutory requirements

This section sets out the actions which must be taken so that the registered person(s) meets the Care Standards Act 2000, Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015 and the 'Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards'. The registered person(s) must comply within the given timescales.

Requirement	Due date
Notify Ofsted and each other relevant person without delay if there is any other incident relating to a child which the registered person considers to be serious. (Regulation 40 (3)(e))	27/02/2017
Keep the statement of purpose under review and, where appropriate, revise it; and notify Ofsted of any revisions and send Ofsted a copy of the revised statement within 28 days of the revision. (Regulation 16 (3)(a)(b))	27/02/2017
Ensure that, within 24 hours of a measure of control, discipline or restraint in relation to a child in the home, a record is made which includes details of the child's behaviour leading to the use of the measure, a description of the measure and its duration and the effectiveness and any consequences of the use of the measure. (Regulation 35 (3)(a)(ii)(iv)(vii))	27/02/2017

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 that 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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