

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC031220
Inspector	Pauline Yates
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Registered person	Compass Fostering North West Limited
Registered person address	Highfield House 185 Chorley New Road BOLTON BL1 4QZ
Responsible individual	Bernadine Louise Gibson
Registered manager	Rochelle Anne Hey
Date of last inspection	18/11/2014

Inspection date	04/02/2015
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Previous inspection	good
Enforcement action since last inspection	none

This inspection

This home was judged good at the last full inspection. At this interim inspection Ofsted judge that it has **improved effectiveness**.

At the previous inspection, one recommendation was made in relation to the home establishing a means of clearly documenting progress of independence skills gained by the young people. This recommendation has now been met.

This inspection identifies one recommendation relating to the timely chasing of documentation for young people's files. There is also one requirement set which relates to the system that is currently employed by the home to ensure a written record is made in a volume relating to sanction and restraint. The application of the system does not meet the requirements of the regulation. Neither the recommendation nor requirement has implications for the welfare of the young people.

A number of improvements have been achieved since the last inspection. There has been extensive refurbishment throughout the home resulting in more of the building being made available to the young people. The young people now have two large sitting rooms for their use and new furnishings have been purchased for this second room. The group therapy room has also benefited from refurbishment, providing a welcoming and warm space for this work to take place in. Young people benefit enormously from living in a home which is not only maintained but actively and extensively improved.

The experienced manager has developed 'triangulation meetings' with senior staff, education and therapists with a focus to further improve the provision of care across all three disciplines. In doing so, the progress for young people can be shared, barriers challenged and cohesive care provided. This ensures that young people's needs are identified and met within a reflective and robust team approach.

The managers have introduced excellent means of recording and measuring the

young people's progress with regards to a vast range of independence skills. This programme provides accreditation from an independent body. Young people also receive certificates and as a result, their self-esteem, sense of achievement and confidence grows as they develop important life skills.

The young people are making excellent progress across a number of areas. A particular strength and focus of the home is in relation to providing robust therapeutic care for challenging and complex risk behaviours. All young people have made good progress with regards to their emotional resilience and ability to fully engage with the challenging therapeutic process. Through the exceptional care offered, young people are more able to positively regulate their responses towards others and themselves. For some young people, this progress has been exceptional since living at the home. This has resulted in a dramatic reduction in incidences of physical intervention, self-harm and recognition of past behaviours being harmful for others. All young people have an educational provision identified and most young people's attendance is very high.

High staffing levels, and adherence to safeguarding and risk management arrangements, ensure that young people are kept safe. Young people say that they have positive relationships with staff and that expectations and boundaries are clearly communicated. Young people report that they feel safe, that staff care, that their views matter and they are listened to. There have been no unauthorised absences or missing from home incidences.

Information about this children's home

This home is privately owned and provides care and accommodation for up to five young males. It is registered to provide care and accommodation for young people with emotional and behavioural difficulties. There is a small school on site which acquired DFE registration in July 2012.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
18/11/2014	Full	good
20/02/2014	Interim	good progress
28/06/2013	Full	good
26/02/2013	Interim	good progress

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

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 Regulations 2001 and the National Minimum Standards. The registered person(s) must comply with the given timescales.

Reg.	Requirement	Due date
17B (2001)	The registered person must ensure that within 24 hours of the use of any measure of control, restraint or discipline in a children's home, a written record is made in a volume	31/03/2015

Recommendations

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

- Records are clear, up to date and stored securely, and contribute to an understanding of the child's life, with particular reference to the timely chasing of missing documents from young people's files.

What inspection judgements mean

At the interim inspections 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

The purpose of this inspection is to assure children and young people, parents, the public, local authorities and government of the quality and standard of the service provided. The 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 relevant regulations and meets the national minimum standards.

The report details the main strengths, any areas for improvement, including any breaches of regulation, and any failure to meet national minimum standards. The judgements included in the report are made against the framework of inspection for children's homes.