

Inspection report for children's home

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<b>Unique reference number</b>	SC439535
<b>Inspector</b>	Monica Hargreaves
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Interim
<b>Provision subtype</b>	Children's home

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<b>Registered person</b>	Pebbles Care Limited
<b>Registered person address</b>	Rouse House, 2 Wyther Lane Kirkstall Leeds West Yorkshire LS5 3BT
<b>Responsible individual</b>	Luiz Miguel Guilherme
<b>Registered manager</b>	Kimberley Elizabeth Crabtree
<b>Date of last inspection</b>	30/10/2014

<b>Inspection date</b>	10/03/2015
Previous inspection	good
Enforcement action since last inspection	There has been no enforcement action since the last inspection.

## This inspection

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

One recommendation was made at the last inspection. This is met. There are arrangements in place with a training provider to ensure that all staff are registered for the level 3 Diploma within six months of confirmation of employment. At this inspection, all existing staff were qualified or working to gain the required qualification. This ensures that they are able to develop the knowledge and skills they need for their work. Since the last inspection, staff and managers have completed multi-agency training in safeguarding and child sexual exploitation, offered by the host local authority. Staff report that they have benefitted from this training opportunity as it has ensured that their knowledge is up to date and has further strengthened their links with relevant partner agencies.

Young people who have lived in this home for some months have made good progress in a number of areas of their lives since the last inspection. For example their attendance at school has greatly improved and as a result, they have been able to take examinations. Young people who have been admitted to the home more recently are settling. Their lives have improved in a number of ways. For example, young people who used substances that had a significant impact on their health before they came to live in the home, have now stopped using them. This benefits their health now and in the longer term. Young people who need to take regular medication to ensure their good health and had been unwilling to take this, have been supported to do so since they came to the home. Their health has improved as a result.

Young people enjoy good relationships with staff. This helps them to feel settled in their home. They say that they get on with staff and know that staff are concerned about their welfare and want them to do well. One young person said 'It's good here. All the staff are lovely,' and another young person said, 'I get much better help

and support here than I did in my last home.'

Professionals report that young people are safer as a result of living in the home. For example, some young people previously had a history of going missing from home. Since the last inspection, there has been a significant reduction in these episodes. Some young people had a history of vulnerability to sexual exploitation before they came to the home. Staff ensure that very clear protection plans are put in place to address these areas of concern. They work effectively with other agencies such as the police, the local safeguarding team and placing social workers to ensure that young people are protected. There are currently no concerns of child sexual exploitation for the group of young people who live in the home. Young people themselves say that they feel 'very safe'. They report that there are no concerns about bullying because staff help them to sort out any problems in the group.

Staff are keen to help young people to learn to behave in socially acceptable ways. Detailed behaviour support plans are developed for each young person. The format for these plans has been reviewed and updated since the last inspection. Plans clearly identify possible triggers and how staff should work with young people to lessen the likelihood of their behaviour becoming challenging. These plans are shared with young people in order to get their views on how they would like staff to respond to them if they are becoming angry and to help them understand how staff will work to keep them and others safe. Staff respond positively to young people and only use physical intervention when this is necessary to protect other young people and staff. Staff talk to young people after any incident in order to help them to learn from the event. They also discuss incidents as a group, reflecting on how situations have been managed in order to continue to improve their practice. Clear records are kept of all restraints. The manager monitors these to ensure that the safety and welfare of young people is promoted. The behaviour of some young people who have been admitted to the home since the last inspection has greatly improved as a result of the way staff work with them.

Admissions to the home are well managed. Full information is obtained about young people who are referred to the service and the manager undertakes an impact risk assessment in order to ensure that young people's needs can be met within the home. Where an emergency situation makes a planned admission impossible, staff make sure that the young person is given good information about the home when they arrive and that they are welcomed. This reassures young people and helps them to settle. Wherever possible, staff help young people to move on in a planned way. They work closely with social workers to ensure that clear plans are put in place so that young people have a say in their move. If this cannot be achieved because of an emergency situation, managers and staff make sure that young people are fully supported when they move to their next placement. Young people who have left the home keep in touch with staff and let them know how they are doing. This indicates that young people value the support they have received during their time in the home.

Young people are regularly consulted about their care. They have frequent key work sessions which focus on issues identified in their plans. They also have regular house meetings where they are encouraged to talk about the routines of the home and any issues that concern them. Since the last inspection, the manager has developed the care plan format to make it more child-friendly and accessible to young people. Staff talk to young people about their plans and encourage them to add their comments. This enables young people to understand their plans and contribute to the decisions that are made about their care.

The home is managed effectively. The manager provides good leadership to the care team who report that they feel they are well supported in their work. Detailed monitoring reports are submitted to Ofsted at the required intervals. These confirm that the care and welfare of young people is kept under close review by the manager and the independent visitor. The manager demonstrates a strong commitment to improving and developing the service that is given to young people. She takes prompt action to address any shortfall that is identified through the monitoring process and through inspections.

No requirements or recommendations have been made as a result of this inspection.

## Information about this children's home

The children's home is provided by a private company and cares for up to five young people of either gender. The home is registered to care for young people with emotional and behavioural difficulties.

## Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
30/10/2014	Full	good
18/12/2013	Interim	good progress
24/04/2013	Full	good
23/01/2013	Interim	satisfactory progress

## **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.