

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC035352
Inspector	Mary Timms
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Registered person	Northamptonshire County Council
Registered person address	Northamptonshire County Council, John Dryden House 8-10 The Lakes NORTHAMPTON NN4 7YD
Responsible individual	Satinder Gautam
Registered manager	Timothy George Morrison
Date of last inspection	06/11/2014

Inspection date	05/03/2015
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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**.

This well-managed service continues to provide young people with a high standard of nurturing and also structured care and support. Most young people make notable progress from their starting points at the time of admission. Examples include, young people who on admission had a poor school attendance history now attending and engaging in a full-time education programme. Young people speak positively about the care that they receive. Comments from young people include, 'I feel well cared for.' and confirm that they are comfortable talking to staff about personal issues or anxieties.

Safeguarding young people is always prioritised. Robust risk management planning guides staff practice and promotes the protection of each young person. Safeguarding concerns are identified and responded to promptly. Notifications are submitted appropriately to the relevant local authority safeguarding officers. This demonstrates that the service reports externally in-line with Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures. Staff understand the potential hazards for each young person and are clear about their role within safeguarding arrangements. One-to-one time is spent with young people educating them about protective behaviours. As a result young people are in a better position to make informed choices when away from the home. Involved professionals report positively about safeguarding arrangements. Comments include, 'I am very happy with the manner in which risks are managed'.

A particular strength of the service is the focus given to the promotion of independence, which is vital for the current age group of young people. As a result each young person is taking on increasing responsibility for their personal care including, laundry tasks, bedroom tidiness, budgeting and using public transport. Young people are encouraged to take on voluntary work and/or paid employment. The home provides one independent living placement within the premises with easy

access to staff support and guidance. The quality of care provided has supported young people to successfully move on into independent living in the community since the last inspection. Comments from previous young people confirm that they are grateful for the level of support they received at this home. Previous young people also comment that they have received follow up support and state, 'I am very thankful to the service. Staff helped me a great deal with moving into my flat, to the extent that staff were allocated to help me to decorate'. This demonstrates that young people receive appropriate practical and emotional support to make a smooth transition into independence.

There is a strong leadership and management team who effectively bring about continuous improvements within service delivery. Staff are confident in both the management team and also in their colleagues. Comments include, 'we all work well together'. The quality of care provided is closely monitored by both the Registered Manager directly and also by an independent person who visits and reports on the home each month.

The Registered Manager has addressed the one requirement and two recommendations set at the time of the last inspection. A copy of the report produced to reflect the manager's monitoring of the service is now being submitted to Ofsted. As a result Ofsted are in a better position to review ongoing service development and to identify issues which may require follow up actions. The management of the home's one emergency admission bed has been strengthened. Updated guidance and procedures support the manager to make appropriate decisions when considering placements and their impact on the current young people. The format and content of individual placement plans has been updated since the last inspection. Plans are: in good order; well detailed; set out individual assessed needs; reflect personal preferences and clarify individual risk management strategies.

The staff team work well with external agencies. Comments from involved professionals include, 'partnership working is very good'. Confirming that staff provide regular updates on young people's progress and also note that staff are very knowledgeable about young people.

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

Information about this children's home

The home is registered to accommodate up to eight young people with emotional and/or behaviour difficulties. The home is run by the local authority.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
06/11/2014	Full	good
24/03/2014	Interim	satisfactory progress
09/01/2014	Full	good
03/12/2012	Interim	good 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.