

## Children's homes - interim inspection

<b>Inspection date</b>	<b>23/07/2015</b>
<b>Unique reference number</b>	<b>SC457423</b>
<b>Type of inspection</b>	<b>Interim</b>
<b>Provision subtype</b>	<b>Children's home</b>
<b>Registered person</b>	<b>MacIntyre Care</b>
<b>Registered person address</b>	<b>MacIntyre Care, 602 South Seventh Street, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, MK9 2JA</b>

<b>Responsible individual</b>	<b>Brenda Mullen</b>
<b>Registered manager</b>	<b>Jennifer Marshall</b>
<b>Inspector</b>	<b>Jane Partridge</b>

<b>Inspection date</b>	<b>23/07/2015</b>
<b>Previous inspection judgement</b>	<b>Adequate</b>
<b>Enforcement action since last inspection</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>This inspection</b>	
<b>The effectiveness of the home and the progress and experiences of children and young people since the most recent full inspection</b>	
<p>This home was judged <b>Adequate</b> at the full inspection. At this interim inspection Ofsted judge that it has <b>improved effectiveness</b>.</p> <p>At the last inspection, one requirement and one recommendation were set. The manager was required to establish and maintain a system for improving the quality of care provided in the children’s home. She has met this requirement by implementing a system that monitors specific areas of care on a quarterly basis.</p> <p>Since the last inspection, the scrutiny and monitoring of records about specific incidents has identified patterns and trends in behaviour. This information has contributed to the implementation of behaviour management and safer caring protocols to safeguard the wellbeing of young people.</p> <p>The appointed independent visitor has regularly omitted seeking feedback from parents. This omission does not offer the level of rigour required to positively assess the safeguarding or welfare arrangements for the young people placed.</p> <p>The home is well maintained with a good standard of decoration. Young people have personalised bedrooms that reflect their personality and interests. It provides them with a variety of different sized rooms offering both roomy living space and smaller areas for activity work. The large spacious kitchen and laundry facilities give young people and staff room to share space to work on independence skills. The home has created a welcoming garden space where new planting adds sensory interaction for young people.</p> <p>Young people undertake an increased level of community based activity. With sensitive understanding and support from staff, one young person has his hair cut at the barbers, another is accessing the wider community by the use of public transport and another is enjoying the social interaction that monthly discos offer.</p> <p>The young people’s independence skills continue to expand as staff work alongside them, encouraging progress. Since the last inspection, some young people independently make their breakfast and all contribute to food preparation and laundering tasks. This provides assistance and preparation as they move into adulthood.</p>	

Good planning supports the transition of young people moving into adult services. Planning to move on involves the team around the child, adult services and parents. All contribute to effective plans to ensure the transition into the next stage of their life is seamless and successful.

Transitions of young people entering the home are as detailed and thoughtful as those leaving. The professional team and parents work together to ensure plans are timely and well considered. A plan of introductions sets the pace for the young person and detailed information ensures staff meet their needs successfully.

Since the last inspection, the home has continued to meet the health needs of young people. Medication is administered in line with prescribed dosage; it is reviewed appropriately to ensure young people are in the best of health and functionality. A healthy diet has contributed to healthy weight loss and creative activity has increased physical exercise for some young people.

A committed and stable staff team offer young people consistency in their caregivers. Staff know the individual young people well. They are aware of their mannerisms and non-verbal cues that indicate their mood and levels of anxiety. Young people feel safe and trust the staff to act in their best interests.

A parent spoke of how her child is very happy at the home. His relationship with staff is very good, they are like his family and he trusts them. She described how her child has made significant progress and declared that 'the home has changed his life'.

The home has good working relationships with parents and wider family members. Regular contact is supported and facilitated to ensure family ties and identity remain strong.

A social worker of another young person reported how, from the outset, the young person settled into the calm environment that the home offers. They said he thrives on the one to one attention, structure and routine given by familiar people and that the home delivers this in droves. The social worker reported that a skilled and consistent staff team who know the young person well have significantly contributed to his development and progress.

The home has improved effectiveness since the last inspection. It continues to meet the needs of young people to a high standard and demonstrates good outcomes for them.

## Information about this children's home

This home is registered to provide care and accommodation for up to 5 young people with learning disabilities aged between 10 and 19 years. A charitable organisation owns and operates this setting.

The organisation provides a separate registered education facility that is based locally.

## Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
06/01/2015	CH - Full	Adequate
19/11/2014	CH - Full	Inadequate
30/09/2014	CH - Full	Inadequate
28/01/2014	CH - Interim	Good Progress

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

### **Recommendations**

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

Ensure that any individual appointed to carry out visits to the home as an independent person makes a rigorous and impartial assessment of the home's arrangements for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of the children in the home's care. This is with particular regard to seeking the views of families. (The Guide to the Quality Standards, page 65, paragraph 15.5)

## **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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