

## Children's homes - interim inspection

<b>Inspection date</b>	<b>17/12/2015</b>
<b>Unique reference number</b>	<b>SC355902</b>
<b>Type of inspection</b>	<b>Interim</b>
<b>Provision subtype</b>	<b>Children's home</b>
<b>Registered manager</b>	<b>Andrew Roberts</b>
<b>Inspector</b>	<b>Keith Riley</b>

<b>Inspection date</b>	<b>17/12/2015</b>
<b>Previous inspection judgement</b>	<b>Good</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>Good</b> at the full inspection. At this interim inspection Ofsted judge that it has <b>improved effectiveness</b>.</p> <p>Young people continue to make good progress. They form good attachments with staff. Behaviour improves. Their health and education are enriched. The number of significant incidents decreases. There are successful admissions and discharges. Placing social workers are positive. One said, 'She (young person) is doing really well there, I am really happy with the progress she is making.' Staff listen to young people. They ensure they act on formal and informal feedback. Examples are the provision of double beds and safes in young peoples' rooms.</p> <p>Young people live in an emotionally warm environment. Those admitted into the home since the last inspection quickly form good relationships with staff. They show a mature and sensible approach. Challenging behaviour diminishes quickly. They are able to tell staff when they have made a poor choice, trusting the adults to support and guide them.</p> <p>Incidents, such as going missing from care, continue to diminish. In some cases, such incidents are eradicated, from a starting point of running away daily. Staff meticulously follow the missing person's policy, working with other professionals, on every occasion a young person is away from the home without consent. Practice and record keeping is of an excellent standard.</p> <p>Young people enjoy seeing others who are important to them. For some young people, they are able to increase overnight contact. For others, the Registered Manager agrees a written contract of expectations with the young person, social worker and other individuals who are involved in the young person's life. This provides the framework for young people to have contact with those who are important to them while keeping them safe.</p> <p>Staff continue to protect young people in the cyber world. Young people tell staff of any postings or messages that concern them. The Registered Manager has strengthened the e-safety policy with clear guidance on the use of staff personal devices in the workplace.</p>	

Staff provide thoughtful and sensitive support toward young people's health. There are excellent outcomes, such as improvements in skin-tone and hair-care. Staff support young people to ensure they safeguard their sexual health effectively. Young people engage with therapy, often for the first time. A placing social worker stated, 'I am so impressed. (Name of young person) is taking up therapy. She has not taken it up when she has been offered it in the past'.

The Registered Manager has managed discharges in a planned way. Young people, admitted in an emergency, are able to reach a place of stability and then return to their own placing authority. He continues to build strong and effective relationships with other professionals. A senior leader from a placing authority stated, 'I am very impressed with the service, very confident in the way the home is managing a challenging young person'. Another agency has chosen to work with him to train the staff to deliver a new training package for young people on sexual exploitation.

The Registered Manager has responded well to the recommendation made at the last inspection. There is a risk assessment in place that clearly outlines the circumstances when access to the kitchen may be restricted. Staff no longer lock the door as a matter of routine. Young people enjoy a healthy and varied diet and have access to snacks.

Staff and young people have easy access to a consultant clinical psychologist. She has provided training for all staff in cognitive behaviour therapy. There are other key training events planned, such as in mental health, engaging with young people who have been sexually exploited and human trafficking. This is a home where there is culture of continually upskilling and empowering the staff.

Morale is high. Staff are motivated. There is a warm and happy atmosphere. Staff celebrate key anniversaries with young people. Young people speak positively of what this means to them. Staff continue to advocate for young people concerning their education. They were able to find a college that would provide the 'A-level' subjects a young person wanted to study. Keyworkers provide intimate support for young people. They show an understanding and empathy for their mental and emotional well-being, providing support when young people are facing a difficult event.

No requirements or recommendations are made at this inspection.

## Information about this children's home

The setting offers care and accommodation for up to six female young people with emotional or behavioural difficulties. The home is run by a private organisation.

## Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
23/06/2015	CH – Full	Good
24/03/2015	CH – Interim	sustained effectiveness
02/10/2014	CH – Full	Good
26/03/2014	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):

## **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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Piccadilly Gate  
Store Street  
Manchester  
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 1231  
Textphone: 0161 618 8524  
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