

## Children's homes - interim inspection

<b>Inspection date</b>	<b>12/01/2016</b>
<b>Unique reference number</b>	<b>SC020171</b>
<b>Type of inspection</b>	<b>Interim</b>
<b>Provision subtype</b>	<b>Children's home</b>
<b>Registered person</b>	<b>Arnfield Care Limited</b>
<b>Registered person address</b>	<b>Brookbank House, Wellington Road, Bollington, Macclesfield, Cheshire, SK10 5JR</b>

<b>Responsible individual</b>	<b>Wayne Relf</b>
<b>Registered manager</b>	<b>Paul Vella</b>
<b>Inspector</b>	<b>Rachel Griffiths</b>

<b>Inspection date</b>	<b>12/01/2016</b>
<b>Previous inspection judgement</b>	<b>Good</b>
<b>Enforcement action since last inspection</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>This inspection</b>	
<p><b>The effectiveness of the home and the progress and experiences of children and young people since the most recent full inspection</b></p> <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>Since the last inspection, the registered manager has been swift to address one requirement and three recommendations made, resulting in improvements in the home's functioning.</p> <p>Staff, including the manager, now receive regular supervision. As a result, every member of staff has the opportunity to reflect on their practice and the needs of the young people they are caring for. Improvements to the home's location risk assessment and the recording of recruitment checks have made safeguarding practice more robust. Newly devised internal quality assurance systems, which are fully compatible with the revised Children's Homes Regulations 2015, have improved the manager's capacity to monitor the quality and effectiveness of the service and provide scope for continual improvements.</p> <p>The majority of young people speak extremely positively about their experiences and the progress they are making in many aspects of their lives. One young person said: 'Looking back, living here has really helped me in lots of ways. My confidence levels have gone up, my anxiety levels have gone down, I have learnt manners and how to behave, I am now doing really well at school and I now have loads of friends.' Another said: 'I have been doing lots of activities such as swimming, horse riding, outdoor education and bowling. I am also doing really well with maths. I used to be rubbish and now I am brilliant.' From their starting points, young people are making excellent progress educationally, socially and emotionally. Consequently, their life experiences and chances significantly improve.</p> <p>Comprehensive packages of multi-agency support provide young people with good levels of help and protection. Coordinated approaches between staff at the home, health professionals, education providers, therapists and family members ensure that young people receive the correct support and services to meet their individual needs. An independent reviewing officer commented: 'The young person is being provided with a high level of support to help him reach his full potential. He now has some insight into his difficulties and is working to address them.'</p>	

Transitions for young people moving into the home are very well managed. The manager does not consider emergency placements, in order to prevent disruption to the current residents. Pre-admission impact assessments are comprehensive, and young people, their social workers and family members have the opportunity to visit, meet the staff and other young people prior to moving in. Such careful planning and preparation for new placements ensure that young people have the best opportunity to settle successfully into their new home.

Older young people are very well prepared for adulthood and living either semi-independently or independently. A young person who has very recently moved on said: 'While living at the home I was prepared really well for independent living. I am eating healthily, I am budgeting well, I am going to college and I am coping well on my own as staff have helped me recognise dangerous situations and how to keep away from them. They have also taught me how to get help and to accept it. I am so grateful for the help I have received. It has made a massive difference to my life.' As a result, young people have improved chances of success and happiness in adulthood.

Young people with significant histories of going missing from home and who are assessed as being at high risk of sexual exploitation are well supported by staff. For some young people, instances of going missing stop. For other young people, on the occasions that they have gone missing, staff have robustly implemented their individual missing from care protocol and worked in close partnership with the police in order to secure their prompt and safe return. Staff welcome young people back into the home, and innovative approaches, such as using safeguarding camps with an aim of breaking the cycle of going missing, are used to help young people explore the reasons which led to them going missing and strategies to improve their levels of safety. Independent return interviews by one placing authority have not, however, been consistently carried out. Managers and staff need to challenge placing authorities in respect of this. These independent interviews provide an extra layer of safety for vulnerable young people.

## Information about this children's home

This home is registered to care for up to seven children and young people with emotional and behavioural difficulties. The home is owned by a private company.

## Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
28/07/2015	Full	Good
26/02/2015	Interim	Declined in Effectiveness
08/10/2014	Full	Outstanding
05/02/2014	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 when a young person returns home after being missing from care or away from the home without permission, the responsible local authority provides an opportunity for the young person to have an independent return home interview. (The Guide to the Quality Standards, page 45, paragraph 9.30)

## **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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