

## **Children's homes - interim inspection**

<b>Inspection date</b>	<b>18/01/2016</b>
<b>Unique reference number</b>	<b>SC459857</b>
<b>Type of inspection</b>	<b>Interim</b>
<b>Provision subtype</b>	<b>Children's home</b>
<b>Registered manager</b>	<b>Jennifer Hiskey</b>
<b>Inspector</b>	<b>Barnaby Dowell</b>

<b>Inspection date</b>	<b>18/01/2016</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>Sustained effectiveness</b>.</p> <p>Three requirements resulted from the full inspection. The home has succeeded in addressing all of these. No recommendations or requirements result from this inspection.</p> <p>The response to young people going missing has improved in the home. Independent return to care interviews offer important support for young people and information for staff. Managers are able to record and evaluate statistics of missing behaviour and offer a constructive activity choice at times of high risk such as the weekend. These measures help reduce missing behaviour and keep young people safe.</p> <p>The home has updated its statement of purpose. This document now offers a full account of the staffing structure and levels of experience, thereby giving full information to placing professionals.</p> <p>Feedback from professionals continues to remain positive, one comments, 'Communication with staff is top notch, especially in times of crisis, when everyone remains calm.'</p> <p>Behaviour remains good in the home and there has been no usage of restraint. When difficulties occur staff act quickly to address the cause of concern. Recently staff restricted the usage of a computer game, which had been a cause for conflict. This helped re-establish good relationships between the young people.</p> <p>The formal registration for the manager has been completed. The manager and deputy have a good understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of the provision. This understanding informs the plans for future development of the home.</p> <p>The home benefits from a committed and conscientious staff team, supported by good supervision, training and management direction. Training includes the development of 'social pedagogy'. This practice allows staff to develop structured, positive relationships with young people.</p>	

Good staff relationships help support young people to reduce risk-taking behaviour. They inform staff when they begin to feel unsafe. This assists with the implementation of protective measures, such as access to therapy and reduces risk. Staff recently liaised with the local authority to provide a therapeutic assessment for one young person. He is now receiving the support he requires and developing an understanding of his difficult past.

There is a strong safeguarding culture in the home. Staff liaise well with the local authority for specialist advice and guidance and follow the correct procedures when disclosures occur. Managers ensure the regular review of risk assessments by rigorous file auditing. These assessments offer clear behavioural management guidance for staff and help to keep young people safe.

Managers control admissions to the home. The monthly risk assessments inform the potential impact of any new arrival, thereby safeguarding young people already in the home and maintaining stability.

Work on semi independence skills is entrenched in the home. Staff focus on both the practical and emotional skills needed to move on successfully from the home. This permits full information for placing professionals and improves care planning for young people.

Outcomes for young people remain good in the home. One young person successfully returned home with a full package of multi-agency support. He remains settled in the care of his mother and is considering the offer of outreach support from the home.

The home successfully supports young people's participation. They recently assisted staff in choosing the colour scheme for the newly decorated games room. One young person comments, 'It was cool we chose how it looked and we now have two games rooms.' This helped promote the value of good teamwork and engagement between staff and young people.

The home prioritises educational achievement. Staff recently engaged with careers advisors to support one young person in changing his college course. He remains focused in school and aiming to commence A level studies in the next academic year.

## Information about this children's home

- A charity and provider of social housing operates and manages this children's home. Registration permits for the care and accommodation for no more than eight children and young people with emotional and/or behavioural difficulties. The age range is from 12 - 17 years old, with two of the eight bedrooms used as emergency placement for 140 days only each calendar year.

## Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
15/09/2015	Full	Good
19/03/2015	Interim	Declined in effectiveness
29/01/2015	Full	Good
20/09/2013	Full	Good

## **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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