

## Children's homes - interim inspection

<b>Inspection date</b>	<b>03/02/2016</b>
<b>Unique reference number</b>	<b>SC020151</b>
<b>Type of inspection</b>	<b>Interim</b>
<b>Provision subtype</b>	<b>Children's home</b>
<b>Registered person</b>	<b>Country Care Children's Homes Limited</b>
<b>Responsible individual</b>	<b>Rachel Dowle</b>
<b>Registered manager</b>	<b>Janine Morrell</b>
<b>Inspector</b>	<b>Rachel Griffiths</b>

<b>Inspection date</b>	<b>03/02/2016</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 addressed two requirements and one recommendation made, resulting in improvements in the home's functioning.</p> <p>The management team continue to be extremely effective. They lead a very established, experienced and skilled staff team who are committed to improving the lives of young people. Monitoring and quality assurance systems are effective because they ensure that the service continues to improve. Better staff supervision systems mean that all staff now receive regular supervision. As a result, they have the opportunity to reflect on their practice and the needs of the young people they are caring for. Young people's case files now include up to date local authority plans. This helps to ensure that care plans take account of the full range of identified needs.</p> <p>Improved management feedback provided to young people following their weekly house meetings improves consultation and ensures that they feel listened to. A young person said: 'We pleaded for a dog for some time. The manager listened. We demonstrated that we could care for smaller animals first and now we have a dog.' Young people are delighted with the new addition to the home and feel valued and respected.</p> <p>Young people speak very positively about their experiences and the progress they have made in many aspects of their lives. One said: 'Looking back, coming here was a really good thing. It has really helped me get my life back on track. I have done brilliantly and life is good.' Professionals also speak favourably about the home. An independent reviewing officer said: 'For this young person, living in this home has been a really positive experience and from where she started, she has made significant progress across the board. She has grown in confidence and she is doing well in college. It has opened avenues for her and she is now working towards semi-independence.' From their starting points, young people are making excellent progress educationally, socially and emotionally. Consequently, their life chances significantly improve.</p>	

Comprehensive packages of multi-agency support provide young people with good levels of help and protection. Coordinated approaches between care staff, the home's therapists, in-house education staff, social workers, specialist health professionals, and family members ensure that young people receive the correct support and services to meet their individual needs and reduce levels of risk. A young person said: 'The staff and therapists are helping me to understand risk and they are helping me to achieve my goal of eventually going home. We are working well together.'

Placement planning is robust. Before a placement is offered, the management team carefully consider all the referral information to assess whether young people will be compatible with those already resident and whether staff have sufficient skills and experience to meet individual needs. Transitions are then very carefully planned. This can involve young people spending time at an induction camp away from the home. This gives them some time to get to know staff before being introduced to their peers. It also gives them some time to adjust, to develop an understanding of the ethos of the home, and to start to formulate goals. For a recent admission, this approach was particularly effective. She said: 'I arrived and went on an induction camp. I got to know the staff who told me all about living here. I was made to feel really welcome and then, when I moved into the main house I was ready for it.' Careful planning and preparation for new placements ensure that young people have the best opportunity to settle into their new home.

Well trained and skilled staff ensure that young people who have significant histories of going missing, and those assessed as being at high risk of child sexual exploitation, are very well supported. Despite such histories, incidents of young people going missing are rare. High levels of supervision, positive relationships, and direct work undertaken to improve risk awareness are significant protective and preventative factors. A young person said: 'Here, I would not go missing as the staff are so nice and caring. I am now building up trust and I am learning how to keep safe.' For those young people who are assessed as high risk in this area, regular multi-agency strategy meetings take place to confirm joint safeguarding strategies. As a result, on the rare occasions when a young person has gone missing, they have been promptly located and welcomed back into the home.

## Information about this children's home

The home is privately owned. It provides care and accommodation for up to eight young people with emotional and behavioural difficulties.

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
22/09/2015	Full	Good
24/02/2015	Interim	improved effectiveness
05/08/2014	Full	Good
26/03/2014	Interim	Satisfactory Progress

## **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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