

Children's homes - interim inspection

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| Inspection date | 20/12/2016 |
| Unique reference number | 1212117 |
| Type of inspection | Interim |
| Provision subtype | Children's home |
| Registered provider | Pathway Care Solutions Ltd 04004053 |
| Registered provider address | 1 Merchant's Place, River Road, Bolton, Lancashire, BL2 1BX |
| Responsible individual | Andrew Smith |
| Registered manager | Vacant |
| Inspector | Judith Longden |

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| Inspection date | 20/12/2016 |
| Previous inspection judgement | Good |
| Enforcement action since last inspection | None |
| This inspection | |
| <p>The effectiveness of the home and the progress and experiences of children and young people since the most recent full inspection</p> <p>This home was judged good at the full inspection. At this interim inspection Ofsted judge that it has sustained effectiveness.</p> <p>The period since the last inspection has been one of significant change for staff and young people to manage. The registered manager recently left and a number of experienced staff have moved on to another home. In addition, new young people have joined the house group. A new manager has been appointed, and is to submit her application to be registered. She was previously the deputy at this home, therefore bringing much experience to the role. She has already made improvements and other professionals have noted she is a 'driving force behind the home.' Three senior staff have been appointed, again with knowledge of this home. All staff and young people have demonstrated resilience during this time and young people continue to make good progress, especially in their education.</p> <p>Education attendance and attainment is very good given the starting points of young people. Some who previously did not attend now achieve 100% attendance. One young person has secured an apprenticeship at a high-end car garage.</p> <p>For some young people, managing their emotions is very difficult and their behaviour can be volatile as a result. Their emotional health and wellbeing is being addressed through good partnership work with mental health teams, peer mentors, and therapists. Staff undertake training in topics, such as self-harm, and utilise key work sessions to support young people. They build positive relationships and young people settle into the home quickly. As a result, self-harm has significantly reduced.</p> <p>Young people are appropriately supported when they move into and from the home. Staff liaise effectively with placing authorities and seek as much information as possible to ensure a smooth transition. One young person who recently moved on from the home returned to their family.</p> <p>Incidents of going missing from the home and the associated risks of sexual exploitation have substantially decreased. This is because staff implement effective training and work with young people building trust, allowing them to spend time with friends in the community whilst remaining as safe as possible.</p> <p>The use of physical intervention is rare. When it is used, the incident is recorded in</p> | |

good detail, the manager's review of effectiveness, and analysis of triggers is excellent. This meets the recommendation made at the last inspection.

The manager utilises a range of monitoring tools enabling her to review and analyse the progress and care of young people. She is undertaking a review of the home's development plan in order to clarify the changes needed to improve the service further.

One recommendation is made because of this inspection. This relates to the homes health and safety risk assessment that needs to be updated and reviewed regularly. This is to provide clarity on the safety measures within the home.

Information about this children's home

This home is registered to care for three young people with emotional and behavioural difficulties. It is owned and managed by a private organisation.

Recent inspection history

| Inspection date | Inspection type | Inspection judgement |
|-----------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| 10/05/2016 | Full | Good |

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:

- Homes must comply with relevant health and safety legislation. This is in relation to updating the home's health and safety risk assessment. (The Guide to the Quality Standards, page 15, paragraph 3.9)

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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