

## Children's homes – interim inspection

<b>Inspection date</b>	<b>11/01/2017</b>
<b>Unique reference number</b>	<b>1212708</b>
<b>Type of inspection</b>	<b>Interim</b>
<b>Provision subtype</b>	<b>Children's home</b>
<b>Registered provider</b>	<b>Pathway Care Solutions Ltd 04004053</b>
<b>Registered provider address</b>	<b>1 Merchant's Place, River Road, Bolton, Lancashire, BL2 1BX</b>
<b>Responsible individual</b>	<b>Alexandra Bryn</b>
<b>Registered manager</b>	<b>Michelle Danvers</b>
<b>Inspector</b>	<b>Judith Longden</b>

<b>Inspection date</b>	<b>11/01/2017</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>Staff continue to provide good care and young people maintain good outcomes in a number of areas, especially education. Significant life changes and transition periods have been managed well by young people, who continue to mature and grow in confidence. Two shortfalls were identified during the inspection. One of these concerned the recording of incidents and the other related to seeking medical advice.</p> <p>Three recommendations were made following the previous inspection and all of these have been addressed by the manager and staff. Recording in young people's case files provides a clearer picture of their care and the aims of their placements. Staff have completed sexual exploitation training either through workshops or online. Staff training is well organised. Staff discuss training in supervision, during which they review courses and identify areas for development. A clear workforce plan identifies the training undertaken and courses required.</p> <p>Education is a high priority in this home. Staff persevere in ensuring that young people receive the education that is right for them and that is suitable for their needs. One young person is receiving full-time education; another has recently started a traineeship in catering with the aim of continuing into an apprenticeship.</p> <p>Staff work closely with other agencies to support young people's emotional health and well-being. This has resulted in a significant reduction in self-harm and a growth in self-esteem and confidence. Other areas of young people's health, such as diet and fitness, also show some improvement. However, there is continued use of drugs, such as cannabis, by some young people. Staff have utilised the skills and resources of other agencies to tackle this issue with young people and have had some success in reducing the use of drugs. On one occasion a young person took an acid tablet. Staff searched the internet in order to find out about the action they needed to take in order to support the young person, rather than telephoning for advice from medical professionals. No harm was caused and the action taken proved to be correct. However, a requirement is made to ensure that staff seek appropriate medical advice in future to reduce the risk of them taking the wrong action.</p>	

Incidents of young people missing from the home have reduced. This is because staff work in close partnership with other agencies and with young people to develop boundaries and new strategies, which increase young people's freedom without increasing risk. Young people develop confidence in their own ability to keep safe and choose safer relationships. Risks of sexual exploitation reduce as a result. Detailed recording of any missing-from-home incidents and a thorough return interview highlight reasons for the absence and help staff prevent future occurrences.

The use of physical intervention is infrequent and is usually used in order to prevent young people from harming themselves. Records of intervention lack clarity and, on occasion, incidents have been evaluated by those involved. Sanction records also lack clarity. The registered manager is aware of these shortfalls and addresses them in team meetings. A recommendation is made to ensure that all recording provides clarity and that incidents are evaluated objectively.

The registered manager utilises a range of monitoring tools in order to identify where progress has been made and where improvement is needed. Reports from the independent visitor are shared with the staff; this encourages them to share the responsibility for any action required. Staff and young people play an integral role in driving improvement, which forges a sense of ownership by all.

Regular team meetings and good-quality supervision ensure that staff feel supported in their roles. The frequency of supervision has improved as the result of an increase in the number of senior staff who have taken on supervisory roles.

## Information about this children's home

This home is registered to provide care and accommodation for up to three young people. It is owned and run by an independent provider. The home provides care and accommodation for young people who have emotional and/or behavioural difficulties.

## Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
11/04/2016	Full	Good

## What does the children's home need to do to improve?

### Statutory Requirements

This section sets out the actions which must be taken so that the registered person(s) meets the Care Standards Act 2000, Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015 and the 'Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards'. The registered person(s) must comply with the given timescales.

Requirement	Due date
10: The health and well-being standard  (2) The registered person must ensure  (c) that each child has access to such medical advice, treatment and other services as the child may require.	28/02/2017

### Recommendations

To improve the quality and standards of care further the service should take account of the following recommendation:

- Staff should understand the importance of careful, objective, and clear recording. This is in relation to the accurate recording of physical intervention records and the objective and independent evaluation of incidents. ('Guide to the quality standards, page 62, paragraph 14.4)

## **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 that 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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