

Preston Springs Farmhouse

Children's homes – Interim inspection

Inspection date	16/01/2017
Unique reference number	SC441080
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home
Registered provider	Bryn Melyn Care
Registered provider address	Bryn Melyn Care Limited, Edward James House, Hadley Park East, TELFORD TF1 6QJ

Responsible individual	Stephen Travis
Registered manager	Anna Davies
Inspector	Dawn Bennett

Inspection date	16/01/2017
Previous inspection judgement	Good
Enforcement action since last inspection	None
This inspection	
The effectiveness of the home and the progress and experiences of children and young people since the most recent full inspection	
<p>This home was judged good at the full inspection. At this interim inspection Ofsted judge that it has improved effectiveness.</p> <p>All young people are making good social, emotional and educational progress. Their success in achieving targets is monitored and their achievements are celebrated and rewarded. Young people are fully engaged and are positive about the home and staff team. One young person stated: 'The staff genuinely care about us and are interested in our well-being.'</p> <p>Young people are consulted and encouraged to express their views and share ideas. Staff listen to young people and ensure that their views are gathered and where possible acted upon. This is central to agreeing day-to-day arrangements for activities and menu choices.</p> <p>Staff have excellent understanding of the needs of each young person. Young people feel listened to and safe. Incidents do not escalate, there have been no missing-from-care episodes for the three young people currently living at the home and the need for physical intervention is low. Rare safeguarding concerns are appropriately responded to in partnership with the local authority.</p> <p>A highly committed and motivated registered manager and deputy effectively manage the home. They have helped to bring about positive changes since newly appointed prior to the last inspection. They are passionate about the service and know the young people well. Residency numbers have increased, as have staff numbers. The environment has been further enhanced with new furniture, photos and art work. Staff have worked hard to ensure that the young people's views are captured more clearly. Managers have ensured incidents, and therefore the need for partner agency's involvement, have reduced. As a result of this work they have fostered relationships with partner agencies that are now very positive about the service.</p> <p>The staff team provides consistent care for young people. All staff work well together and there are now low sickness rates. Where necessary, staff will cover shifts to ensure that there are no shortfalls in staffing levels and agency staff are not required.</p>	

The registered manager continues to develop the service and improve outcomes for young people. She makes excellent use of the internal quality assurance tool. She effectively monitors and reflects on practice, and feeds areas for development into the home's action plan.

Information about this children's home

This children's home is operated by an independent provider who also operates a large number of other children's homes and schools. It is registered to provide care and accommodation for three young people who have emotional and/or behavioural difficulties. Packages of care may include therapy and education.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
27/07/2016	Full	Good
15/02/2016	Interim	Declined in effectiveness
15/06/2015	Full	Good
05/03/2015	Interim	Improved effectiveness

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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