

Children's homes – Interim inspection

Inspection date	01/02/2017
Unique reference number	SC407753
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home
Registered provider	3 Dimensions Care Limited
Registered provider address	Chardleigh House, Chardleigh Green, Wadeford, Chard, Somerset TA20 3AJ

Responsible individual	Nita Ellul
Registered manager	Emma English
Inspector	Sharron Escott

Inspection date	01/02/2017
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 judges that it has sustained effectiveness.</p>	
<p>The registered manager provides consistently strong leadership. As a result, the young people continue to benefit from high-quality, nurturing care from an experienced, well-managed team. One-to-one staffing levels ensure that the young people receive individualised care. Consequently, very positive outcomes for all of the young people are achieved. They have made significant progress in their personal development, health and education.</p> <p>The registered manager and staff team are passionate about helping the young people to achieve their aspirations and dreams. Staff know the young people extremely well, and relationships between the staff and young people are good. Staff help and encourage the young people to make new friends, broaden their experiences and develop strong and meaningful relationships with their families.</p> <p>The registered manager has ensured that the one requirement made at the last inspection has been fully met. As a result, she has developed a locality risk assessment that is comprehensive and informative, using information provided from a good range of external agencies.</p> <p>Further improvement is required to meet the two recommendations made at the last inspection relating to consultation and the environment. The manager has not used the home's own consultation systems well enough to evidence that the young people's views are formally sought. For example, records do not show if action has been taken in response to the requests made by young people during house meetings.</p> <p>The manager and her team provide a nurturing home for young people. Overall, the registered manager has taken some effective measures to ensure that the home's environment is well-maintained, warm and welcoming. Bedrooms are individualised and young people's special interests are supported. However, unused locks remain on two of the young people's bedroom doors, and detract from an otherwise homely environment. In addition, not all staff always provide the level of support needed for two young people to maintain their bedrooms to a reasonable standard. Two of the bedrooms viewed were unkempt.</p>	

Since the last inspection, there have not been any incidents of the young people going missing. A safeguarding concern has been appropriately shared with external agencies. At the request of the designated officer the responsible individual conducted an investigation. A chronology of the actions taken is comprehensively recorded. However, the investigation report and copies of the safeguarding correspondence are maintained by the author, and are not accessible in the home. As a result, this information is not available for independent scrutiny by the regulator.

The staff team works closely and effectively with other services to provide excellent help and support for the young people. For example, the registered manager and staff team work collaboratively with the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service, schools and families. This ensures that the staff are providing holistic and effective support for the young people. Staff support the young people's individual identity and personal preferences well, meaning that they are positively supported without judgement or prejudice.

Information about this children's home

The service is run by an established provider. The home is registered to provide medium- to long-term care and accommodation for up to four young people who have emotional and behavioural and/or learning disabilities. The home is managed as two separate self-contained flats within one house.

Young people who live in the home can also attend a school run by the provider and have access to in-house therapeutic support.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
06/07/2016	Full	Good
21/03/2016	Interim	Improved effectiveness
06/10/2015	Full	Good
18/03/2015	Interim	Sustained effectiveness

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 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 must comply with the given timescales.

Recommendations

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

- Ensure that all areas are homely and domestic environments, in particular that unnecessary locks are removed from doors. ('Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards', 2015, page 15, paragraph 3.9)
- Ensure that children are consulted regularly on their views about the home's care, to inform and support continued improvement in the quality of care provided. Due consideration should be given to the child's cognitive ability in the development and implementation of any consultation processes. Children should be able to see the results of their views being listened to and acted upon. ('Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards', 2015, page 22, paragraph 4.11)
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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 whom 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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