

## Children's homes – Interim inspection

<b>Inspection date</b>	<b>18/01/2017</b>
<b>Unique reference number</b>	<b>1184093</b>
<b>Type of inspection</b>	<b>Interim</b>
<b>Provision subtype</b>	<b>Children's home</b>
<b>Registered provider</b>	<b>Sandcastle Care Ltd</b>
<b>Registered provider address</b>	<b>49 Whitegate Drive, Blackpool FY3 9DG</b>

<b>Responsible individual</b>	<b>Michael Swarbrick</b>
<b>Registered manager</b>	<b>Lee Prescott</b>
<b>Inspector</b>	<b>Elaine Clare</b>

<b>Inspection date</b>	<b>18/01/2017</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>improved effectiveness</b>.</p> <p>Good progress has been made since the last full inspection in July 2016. The one requirement and two recommendations from the previous inspection are met and the registered manager has improved young people's educational attainment. Both staff and professionals commented on how this has improved the ability of the home to manage young people safely and give them the attention they need to make positive progress.</p> <p>The home provides a homely and welcoming environment where young people feel safe and secure. The home is comfortable, well decorated and well furnished. The home had recently separated the manager's office and the therapeutic room, which now has a separate entrance. Young people like the room because it has its own private entrance and is a cosier environment.</p> <p>The young people in placement are making excellent progress from their starting points. For example, all young people attend educational provision and one young person has improved their attendance significantly since the last inspection.</p> <p>Young people rarely go missing from this home. While part of this is attributable to the mix of young people in placement, it is also down to the hard work and impact of staff and managers. For example, thinking more carefully about matching and ensuring that detailed risk assessments help staff to manage this risk. Staff training, in areas such as child sexual exploitation, helps staff to understand risks to young people in the community. One young person says, 'It feels homely, I don't feel the need to go off and go missing.'</p> <p>Young people are more engaged in key-work sessions and residents' meetings. They have choices in activities and although they are of an age when they are mainly wanting to make their own choices, they have enjoyed a variety of options, such as holidays abroad, a trip to the safari park and more regular trips to youth football, swimming at a local leisure club and rugby matches.</p> <p>Young people have improved behaviours, significantly allowing a reduction to more relaxed staffing ratios. For example, staff say that one young person is listening</p>	

more and does not get so upset over trivial issues. There is a reported decrease in angry outbursts and, with support, young people can regulate behaviour more quickly.

The home works well with parents and relatives, supporting their roles and encouraging positive contact. Independent monitoring of the home identifies areas for improvement and allows the management team to work on improving the service. The registered manager has completed a review of the home, which shows a good understanding of service provision and what needs to improve.

The registered manager is able to assess the strengths of this home as well as the weaknesses. A particular strength is the skilled, stable and competent staff team. Most of its members have reached at least the level 3 diploma in caring for children and young people, while others have registered for the qualification. Staff are very experienced and are able to provide a high level of care to young people.

The home has continued to improve since the last inspection. Young people confirm that the standard of care is good and that they feel safe. There are no requirements or recommendations made as a result of this visit

## Information about this children's home

The children's home is managed by a private organisation. It provides care and accommodation for three young people of a single gender aged between 10 and 18 years who have emotional and/or behavioural difficulties

## Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
04/07/2016	Full	Good

## **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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