

Children's homes – Interim inspection

Inspection date	20/02/2017
Unique reference number	1232171
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home
Registered provider	In Safe Hands Care Ltd
Registered provider address	Peter Wray Accountancy Services, 48 50, Wakefield Road, Pontefract, South Yorkshire WF7 7AB

Responsible individual	Terry Carr
Registered manager	Terry Carr
Inspector	Fiona Parker

Inspection date	20/02/2017
Previous inspection judgement	Outstanding
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 outstanding at the full inspection. At this interim inspection, Ofsted judges that it has improved effectiveness.</p> <p>All of the requirements and recommendations raised at the last full inspection have been fully met. This demonstrates the home's ability to improve, and that the registered manager is proactive and takes decisive action.</p> <p>The manager has taken immediate steps to introduce a system for consulting with, and obtaining feedback from, all involved professionals. The manager has developed professional forms to capture feedback, both in a planned way and when opportunities arise. A number of key professionals have provided timely, positive comments about the quality of the home. As with any new initiative, the manager is reviewing the quality of the tools and the feedback so far, to ensure that meaningful feedback is obtained which is relevant to continual improvements for young people.</p> <p>The manager has fully reviewed how the home approaches supporting and monitoring young people's progress regarding independence, and specifically how this important work is structured and tailored for individual young people. The home has improved how objectively management and staff are thinking about the balance of nurturing and promoting emotional resilience in independence planning.</p> <p>Young people are fully engaged and consulted in their planning, understanding both their responsibilities and what they are working towards. When it is necessary, there are clear risk assessments to support the home in prioritising safeguarding and young people's increasing independence, for example in self-administering medication. The home works consistently with key professionals to consider individual approaches to the progress of young people, and to agree ongoing strategies when this progress falters. The home continues to source and actively pursue varied training and employment opportunities to encourage young people, who are continually provided with development opportunities such as relevant online training to develop their skills and confidence.</p> <p>Young people continue to benefit from sustained and positive relationships with a stable staff team. Young people report feeling safe, and the growing trust and respect they have developed with the manager and staff can be clearly observed. A</p>	

visiting independent reviewing officer commented, 'the young person clearly sees the members of staff as extended family.' This is a key strength of this home, and is reflected by the fact that the majority of young people's presenting emotional difficulties are diffused before they escalate. One social worker commented on the progress of a young person as 'clearly measurable', and cited that the young person has 'learned self-control, the value of trusting relationships and importantly expressing empathy for others'. When it is necessary to support young people to manage their emotions, for their safety and the safety of others, this is done safely, proportionately, and using agreed methods. Clear records show that young people are safeguarded, spoken with and given full opportunity to record their views. However, the records are not sufficiently clear on the approaches, or the discussions that take place with young people. These discussions support them in expressing their feelings and reflections following an incident.

Young people engage in purposeful and varied activities that enable them to learn to manage positive peer relationships, develop self-control and broaden their expanding interests. A visiting independent reviewing officer commented, 'The range of activities for young people is exceptional', and specifically pointed out that the young person has made their own choices with activities that reflect their personal interests.

Young people's education and entitlements for education are well promoted, and young people make good progress. The home provides extensive support for young people to maintain positive educational experiences. The home has been proactive in resolving some difficulties for one young person through contacting the virtual headteacher. A visiting social worker commented positively about the education support provided by the home, 'There have been exclusions but these have reduced significantly.'

The registered manager is fully committed to improving the care and experiences of the young people living long-term in the home. An independent reviewing officer commented, 'The home is well run and well managed.' The manager maintains consistent oversight of the running of the home, supported by good independent monthly scrutiny which focuses on safeguarding. The manager continues to assess young people's progress, experiences and the quality of care through monitoring and self-assessment. These assessments are focused on young people and the right areas for improving. However, some actions could be clearer, with timescales, a named responsible person and a clear means of monitoring to ensure that the clearly evident improvement journey continues at pace.

Information about this children's home

The children's home is owned and managed by a sole provider. It is registered to provide care and accommodation for up to three children or young people who have emotional and/or behaviour difficulties.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
06/12/2016	Full	Outstanding

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(s):

- Ensure that the records detailing restraints are clear on how children have been given the opportunity to express their feelings about restraints ('Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards', page 50, paragraph 9.60)
- Ensure that the review under Regulation 45 identifies clearly how actions will be met, specifically who is responsible, in what timeframe and how progress will be monitored ('Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards', page 65, paragraph 15.4)

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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