

Children's homes – Interim inspection

Inspection date	03/03/2017
Unique reference number	SC020133
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home
Registered provider	Arnfield Care Limited
Registered provider address	Brookbank House, Wellington Road, Bollington, Macclesfield, Cheshire SK10 5JR

Responsible individual	Wayne Relf
Registered manager	Elaine French
Inspector	Corrinne Barker

Inspection date	03/03/2017
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 sustained effectiveness.</p> <p>This home continues to provide a high standard of care to young people. Since the last inspection, staffing has remained stable. The consistent and dependable care supports young people to build trusting relationships with staff. Young people make excellent progress from their starting points, particularly in relation to their personal, social and emotional development.</p> <p>Education is seen as pivotal to establishing routines, and the home has a great deal of success in getting young people with poor attendance records back into education. Staff work closely with the education provision on site, and also with education providers farther afield. Bespoke packages of support provide young people with the opportunity to reach their academic potential.</p> <p>Admissions to the home are managed well. Staff use impact risk assessments to ensure that young people being considered for admission are well matched alongside young people already living in the home. The manager and staff are able to identify where young people are not making progress, or when the home is not meeting a young person's needs. In these instances, swift liaison with placing authorities ensures that the young person's needs are considered and next steps can be agreed. Since the last inspection, a situation of this nature arose when the decision was made that the home could not meet the needs of a young person due to the level of risk presented by the young person. The young person's need for a planned and appropriate transition was given priority, balanced against the needs of the other young people in the home.</p> <p>Young people are registered with universal health services, and have access to specialist resources if necessary. In-house clinical support is available to staff, with the home's clinician providing regular consultation. Psychological assessments and direct work can be provided for young people if needed.</p> <p>The home provides a physically and emotionally safe environment for young people. Young people become increasingly able to regulate their behaviour and manage strong feelings. Staff are responsive to emerging risks. They implement comprehensive risk management plans, and communicate effectively with partner agencies to safeguard young people. Following a safeguarding incident while young people were taking part in outdoor activities, managers swiftly and robustly reviewed risk assessments and ensured that procedures were put in place to</p>	

mitigate against future risk.

There have been no missing-from-care incidents since the last inspection.

Staff manage challenging behaviour exceptionally well. Experienced staff plan young people's care to minimise risk, and are able to utilise a range of de-escalation strategies to divert potential triggers for negative behaviour. Physical intervention is rarely used to manage behaviour, but when used is very well recorded. The antecedents and any de-escalation strategies employed by staff are clearly described, as well as the physical restraint. Staff and young people have the opportunity to debrief following an incident. A requirement is made at this inspection to ensure that staff record discussions with young people following a physical intervention in a timely manner.

Professionals speak very positively about the home and the service provided. The independent reviewing officer for one young person spoke about how well the staff communicate with him, and referred to reports produced by the home as 'superb and insightful'.

Leadership and management in the home remain highly effective. Robust monitoring processes are in place, and management oversight is evident. This has been a slightly more challenging period for the home, but the manager has responded swiftly and decisively as situations have arisen. Managers have very good insight into the strengths and weaknesses of the home, and are continually seeking to make improvements in the quality of the care provided.

Information about this children's home

This home is registered to provide care and accommodation for up to eight young people who have emotional and behavioural difficulties. It provides short- to medium-term crisis placements. The home is owned by a private company. Education is provided on site and through camps and outdoor education.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
09/11/2016	Full	Outstanding
26/01/2016	Interim	Sustained effectiveness
18/08/2015	Full	Outstanding
02/03/2015	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(s) meet(s) the Care Standards Act 2000, the 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 within the given timescales.

Requirement	Due date
The registered person must ensure that – Within five days of the use of a measure, the registered person or the authorised person adds to the record confirmation that they have spoken to the child about the measure. (Regulation 35(3)(c))	07/04/2017

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 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 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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