

SC020151

Registered provider: Country Care Children's Homes Limited

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home is privately owned. It is a registered to provide care for eight females. There are seven registered beds at the main site and one bed in a separate provision. The provider has a registered independent school on site. This provides education to those children resident in the home.

Inspection dates: 25 to 26 June 2019

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people, taking into account **good**

How well children and young people are helped and protected **good**

The effectiveness of leaders and managers **outstanding**

The children's home provides effective services that meet the requirements for good.

Date of last inspection: 7 November 2018

Overall judgement at last inspection: outstanding

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
07/11/2018	Full	Outstanding
22/11/2017	Full	Outstanding
14/02/2017	Interim	Improved effectiveness
26/10/2016	Full	Good

What does the children's home need to do to improve?

Statutory requirements

This section sets out the actions that the registered person(s) must take to meet 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(s) must comply within the given timescales.

Requirement	Due date
The registered person must— keep the statement of purpose under review and, where appropriate, revise it; and notify HMCI of any revisions and send HMCI a copy of the revised statement within 28 days of the revision. (Regulation 16 (3)(a)(b))	01/08/2019
The registered person must review the appropriateness and suitability of the location of the premises used for the purposes of the children's home at least once in each calendar year taking into account the requirement in regulation 12(2)(c) (the protection of children standard). When conducting the review, the registered person must consult, and take into account the views of, each relevant person. (Regulation 46 (1)(2))	01/08/2019

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

This home continues to provide steadfast standards of care. Young people benefit from excellent education, therapy and care provision. They make good progress. This means that young people have improved life chances when they leave the home.

Admissions and transitions from the home are well planned. The experienced and stable staff team has excellent skills to ensure that young people settle and feel secure.

Staff understand young people's individual needs. The team provides a high standard of individualised care and support. This contributes to the progress and experiences of all young people.

The quality of relationships between staff and young people is very good. Staff nurture young people and care for them as a good parent would. Professionals and parents

confirmed that there are high standards and consistency of care.

All staff have appropriate therapeutic training. They have access to a highly skilled therapeutic team. This means that the team is always ready to respond to young people in crisis. Staff are skilled in working with young people who have experienced trauma, abuse, neglect and loss. They understand the underlying reasons for some challenging behaviours. This means that they work well with young people to develop positive ways of coping.

Education outcomes improve because of the impact of the outstanding on-site school. In this way, young people who have previously struggled to attend or engage in mainstream schools thrive. Young people enjoy a stimulating approach to learning. This promotes vastly improved education outcomes.

Preparing young people for independence is a priority. They learn new skills which lead to accredited awards. They develop practical skills in a range self-care tasks. This learning equips them with life skills essential to successful independent living.

Since the last inspection, this home has experienced a period of disruption. The skilled staff team has worked hard to manage young people's challenging behaviours. However, some young people confirmed that issues with behaviour have had a negative impact on the quality of their day-to-day experiences.

How well children and young people are helped and protected: good

Staff are highly experienced in managing complex safeguarding issues. They have expertise in working with young people who have eating disorders or self-injurious behaviours or are vulnerable to sexual and criminal exploitation. The team has strong links with specialist services. This means that young people benefit from well-rounded, specialist care.

Young people have risk assessments before their admission to the home. Risks are well understood by staff. Risk assessments are clear and up to date. Staff take appropriate action when young people display risk-taking behaviours. Over time, risks reduce for young people, which means that they can safely enjoy more independence.

Since the last inspection, young people have gone missing and have had unauthorised absences from the home. This means that young people are vulnerable to actual or potential risk. Safeguarding professionals and the police confirmed that safeguarding situations, including that in relation to sexual exploitation, are well managed.

All staff have had a wide range of safeguarding training. This includes child-specific training, in, for example, sexual exploitation, mental health, self-harm and suicide prevention. This training equips staff with methods by which to manage safeguarding risks.

The manager ensures that the environment is safe. The locality risk assessment is

detailed and up to date and describes local risks. However, this report needs to seek the views of relevant agencies and include child-specific risks.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: outstanding

The responsible individual and registered manager provide outstanding leadership to a committed and knowledgeable team. This results in a highly effective service.

All managers and staff are aspirational for young people. They advocate on their behalf and challenge responses which they feel are not in their best interests.

Managers encourage the professional growth and development of staff. This means that young people benefit from care delivered by a high-calibre staff team. The team is appropriately qualified and benefits from a rigorous training programme. Team working is very strong and contributes significantly to the delivery of high standards of care.

Partnership work with stakeholders and families is outstanding. Staff work in partnership effectively to enable young people to achieve their potential. A professional said: 'I have nothing but praise for this team.'

Meticulous internal and external quality assurance provides detailed analysis of care provision. Leaders and managers have a clear understanding of the home's strengths and weaknesses. They have development plans in place to promote continued improvement.

Information about this inspection

Inspectors have looked closely at the experiences and progress of children and young people. Inspectors considered the quality of work and the differences made to the lives of children and young people. They watched how professional staff work with children and young people and each other and discussed the effectiveness of help and care provided. Wherever possible, they talked to children and 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.

Using the 'Social care common inspection framework', this inspection was carried out under the Care Standards Act 2000 to assess the effectiveness of the service, how it meets the core functions of the service as set out in legislation, 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'.

Children's home details

Unique reference number: SC020151

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Country Care Children's Homes Limited

Responsible individual: Rachel Dowle

Registered manager: Janine Morrell

Inspector:

Amanda Ellis, social care inspector

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