

1259184

Registered provider: Ashwood Children's Care Home Limited

Interim inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This privately owned children's home is able to care for up to four children. Its statement of purpose states that the home's policy is to consider children, irrespective of gender and aged between eight and 17, who are having trouble in their lives and who would benefit from the placement.

The home has a suitably qualified registered manager in place.

Inspection date: 30 December 2019

Date of last inspection: 20 August 2019

Judgement at last inspection: outstanding

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

This home was judged outstanding at the last full inspection. At the interim inspection, Ofsted judges that it has sustained effectiveness.

The manager and staff continue to provide a high standard of individualised care and support to the four children, all of whom have lived at this home for over a year. The children are all very settled and happy, and they are making good progress. Their health has improved, their educational needs are well met, and they are thriving. Staff understand the children's needs well and they provide structured support in line with the placement plans. Children have excellent relationships with the staff and with each other. The atmosphere is warm and replicates that of a family home.

Children have lots of fun. They are part of the local community and they engage in many different activities. For example, this year they raised money by having a cake stall at a local market fair, and this money was donated to a local food bank. Not only did this activity reinforce the children's sense of belonging to the community, it also enhanced their awareness of social issues. Children also visit local parks, leisure facilities, youth clubs and sporting venues.

Partnership working is good and this contributes to making sure that children's needs are recognised and met by all the agencies involved. Staff support educational achievement by making sure that communication with the schools is good, and by providing practical support in the classroom to maintain one child's educational placement. Staff communicate well with the children's social workers and attend all the meetings to provide up-to-date information when decisions are being made. A child's social worker commented: 'We are working well together to get the best possible service for the child.'

Children are not engaging in risk-taking behaviour. They do not go missing and there have been no complaints or safeguarding allegations since the last inspection. Behaviour management has improved. Staff are helping children to manage their emotions more effectively, and they are operating a reward system to encourage good behaviour. As a result of this change of approach, there have only been five sanctions and one physical intervention since the last inspection. This promotes more positive relationships.

The manager provides strong leadership. Staff are well supported and well trained, and there is an open culture of challenge and support, with children being at the centre of staff practice. Effective managerial monitoring ensures that managers know what is happening in the home and can address any concerns promptly.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
20/08/2019	Full	Outstanding
12/12/2018	Interim	Improved effectiveness
31/07/2018	Full	Requires improvement to be good

Information about this inspection

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.

Inspectors have looked closely at the experiences and progress of children and young people, 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: 1259184

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Ashwood Children's Care Home Limited

Registered provider address: 43a Repton House, Bretby Business Park, Ashby Road, Burton-on-Trent, Derbyshire DE15 0YZ

Responsible individual: Elizabeth Nixon

Registered manager: Nathan Sweet

Inspector

Ros Chapman, Social Care Inspector

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