

Inspection report for children's home

---

<b>Unique reference number</b>	SC469411
<b>Inspector</b>	Michelle Edge
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Interim
<b>Provision subtype</b>	Children's home

---

<b>Registered person</b>	Next Stage 4 Life Ltd
<b>Registered person address</b>	HR House 28 Manchester Road Westhoughton Lancashire BL5 3QJ
<b>Responsible individual</b>	Jeremy Mark Alston
<b>Registered manager</b>	Richard Norman Guy
<b>Date of last inspection</b>	17/07/2014

<b>Inspection date</b>	24/03/2015
------------------------	------------

Previous inspection	good
Enforcement action since last inspection	none

## **This inspection**

This home was judged good at the last full inspection. At this interim inspection Ofsted judge that it has **improved effectiveness**.

The home is effectively led by a committed and suitably qualified Registered Manager, who has taken effective action to address the requirements and recommendations made at the last inspection. An updated statement and purpose has been provided to the regulatory body containing all relevant information. All physical interventions are now recorded. They provide an accurate and detailed account and are signed and dated by all parties. Children, young people and staff are provided with an opportunity to comment and reflect on the intervention. It is then used as an opportunity for learning to improve experiences for them. There is now a telephone available for young people to use to contact their family and friends, when appropriate.

Since the last inspection one young person has successfully moved to her own independent provision. This was planned and she was encouraged to take part in the transition process. She had the opportunity to visit before the final decision was made. The young lady said 'I can't thank the staff enough for all they have done for me, from when I lived in the children's home and now on my own, I could not have done it without their care and support.' Careful consideration is given to any new children and young people living at the home. This ensures the group is compatible so friendships can be promoted and their individual needs can be met. Introductions for new children and young people to the service are planned with them, their current provider, social workers and families. This ensures they feel confident and comfortable. They are all offered appropriate reassurance to ease anxieties and are encouraged to ask any questions. Children and young people are provided with an opportunity to visit the home, meet the staff and gain a clear understanding of the ethos of the home before the planned move. One young person said 'the manager visited me before I moved, I got to ask questions and they showed me pictures of the house, this helped as I knew someone when I moved in.'

Children and young people have made significant progress in their education; behaviour; emotional health and self-confidence. They say that they feel 'safe and happy and can talk to staff if they are worried.' For example, one young person said 'If I was outside and something happened the first person I would ring would be staff to help me.' The Registered Manager has an excellent understanding of safeguarding procedures and is very clear how to respond to safeguarding concerns. He has the contact details of the Local Authority Designated officer as required. Both the manager and staff are aware of their responsibility to protect children and young people and have all attended safeguarding training. They are able to recognise the signs and symptoms of abuse, including those arising from children and young people's personal circumstances and sexual exploitation. Staff are fully aware of safeguarding procedures and have taken effective action when they have concerns around children and young people's safety, by notifying relevant agencies and working in partnership to resolve the situation. All individual care plans and risk assessments clearly identify areas of concern and risk. They also contain appropriate management strategies that need to be followed. Consequently children and young people are safe and secure and able to raise any concerns to ensure their safety and well-being is paramount.

Staff work closely with health professionals to offer children and young people support for their emotional and psychological well-being. They are encouraged to manage their feelings and emotions around a variety of issues. For example, young people are helped to understand any impulse to self-harm and provided with strategies to manage these safely. This has greatly reduced the number of incidents and has helped the young person to build their emotional well-being. The Doctor said 'This children's home is a very nurturing, caring environment, fantastic for supporting young people.'

Children and young people are making clear progress in their education. Their attendance has generally improved and they are now attending education more frequently. Staff have raised the importance of education within the home. They attend all education meetings to ensure that children and young people are receiving an acceptable level of education. Information relating to education is well documented and this continues to support their development. If children and young people are excluded or refuse to attend they still have access to appropriate education. They have a structured day and are supported to return to their full time programme. Achievements are celebrated and young people have certificates on their files, which they can take with them into adulthood. One young person was proud of the fact that this was the first time she had attended school for a significant period of time, 'Still can't believe I have gone back.'

Children and young people participate in a wide range of activities of their choice. Two young people had tried horse-riding for the first time and another has private ice skating lessons. she said 'I was not very good at first, but now I can stand up straight.' One young man has joined a local football team and recently received 'man of the match'. This ensures that children and young people have the same

opportunities as their peer group and they are supported to develop their social skills.

Children and young people are supported and encouraged to maintain and develop family contact and friendships, in accordance with their care plan. The staff have been proactive in their approach and have helped re-establish links with families and built back up relationships. Parents and social workers are very complimentary about the staff team and the support that has been given to their child. One social worker said 'The young person had not been home for several months. The manager visited the family and talked about the support that would be offered. It was a gradual process but the young person is now having overnight stays, this is fantastic for her.' Staff support contact when appropriate, and ensure that children and young people's needs are being met during the visit, taking action if required to ease any anxieties and ensure it is a positive experience for all. This ensures that children and young people maintain relationships with people who play a significant role in their lives.

The Registered Manager regularly monitors all records kept by the home to ensure compliance with the homes policies, identifying any concerns about specific incidents, themes and patterns. Immediate action is taken to address any issues that are raised. He is aware of the strengths of the home and continually looks at areas they can improve. For example, team meetings are going to be developed to include an opportunity for children and young people to add their comments, thoughts and suggestions. This provides a more holistic view and ensures that they are listened to and their views represented. The manager works hard to secure improvements and make a difference to children and young people's lives; ensuring they fully consulted about the day to day running of the home. One young person said 'staff really do care and listen to me.'

There are no requirements or recommendations made at this inspection.

## Information about this children's home

This is a children's home operated by a private company. The home provides care for four young people from 8 years up to 17 years with emotional and behavioural difficulties and children with learning disabilities.

## Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
17/07/2014	Full	good

## **What inspection judgements mean**

At the interim inspections 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**

The purpose of this inspection is to assure children and young people, parents, the public, local authorities and government of the quality and standard of the service provided. The 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 relevant regulations and meets the national minimum standards.

The report details the main strengths, any areas for improvement, including any breaches of regulation, and any failure to meet national minimum standards. The judgements included in the report are made against the framework of inspection for children's homes.