

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC429748
Inspector	Joanna Heller
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	

Registered person	The Ryes College Limited
Registered person address	Aldham Business Centre, New Road Aldham COLCHESTER CO6 3PN
Responsible individual	Katherine Ann Yarbo
Registered manager	Vivienne Belinda Toms
Date of last inspection	26/03/2014

Inspection date	07/08/2014
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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 **sustained effectiveness**.

At the last inspection in March the home was judged as good and two requirements and one recommendation were set. These related to the quality of care review report, maintenance of case records and risk assessments. The manager of the home has ensured that both requirements and the recommendation from the last inspection have been met. One new requirement has been set at this inspection.

Young people benefit from a stable staff team which ensures continuity of care. Placements are well planned which minimises the risk of placement breakdown. Staff ensure that all key information about young people's needs is obtained from the placing authority and use this information to develop an individual plan of care. Risk assessments are comprehensive and kept under regular review. Good quality pre-admission assessment, case recording, risk assessment and care planning ensures staff are aware of young people's individual needs.

Young people continue to make good progress from their starting points. One young person has made strong progress in relation to educational attainment, particularly improving in literacy, and design and technology. All young people are healthy and are encouraged to enjoy healthy lifestyles. Young people enjoy a varied programme of activities and are developing appropriate friendships with their peers.

Staff and young people enjoy positive relationships. Staff maintain clear and consistent boundaries and effective systems are in place to promote positive behaviour. Young people become more able to self-manage their behaviour during their time at the home. Staff are clear on the thresholds for restraint and use this only when young people present a risk to themselves or others. Staff are vigilant for conflict within the group and there are no concerns regarding bullying.

Most young people rarely go missing, however, staff are clear on the actions to be

taken to secure young people's welfare should they go missing. Young people value staff's ability to balance personal development with risk. Consultation with young people is central to the delivery of service. Young people are positive about their time living at the home. Placing authorities and parents comment on the quality and competence of staff.

No placement breakdown has occurred. One young person who has successfully moved to a more independent unit, continues to visit regularly, continuing to maintain positive relationships with staff.

Young people benefit from a homely environment which is well decorated and maintained. Young people have been involved in improving the home in the past year, and particularly enjoy choosing items for their rooms.

Staff feel that good quality support and training enables them to effectively provide good quality care and promote positive outcomes.

Staff act to ensure the welfare of young people, and work well in partnership with other agencies. However, on one occasion the manager failed to notify Ofsted of a significant event. Ofsted is unable to make informed judgements to ensure the safety of young people when they are not kept informed of significant incidents in accordance with regulation.

At the last inspection the manager was asked to improve the quality of the care monitoring report for the home. Quality of care reviews for the home take place regularly and are of a suitable standard, accurately describing the quality of care and conduct of the home. The manager now ensures that the report does not contain children's names and personal information, this means that managers of the organisation have effective oversight of the home whilst maintaining confidentiality.

The manager is suitably qualified and experienced and the home benefits from strong leadership. The home maintains sustained effectiveness through continuing to provide a good quality of care.

Information about this children's home

This children's home is privately owned and provides placements for children and young people on behalf of local authorities. The home offers care and accommodation for four children and young people who have emotional and behavioural difficulties and/or learning disabilities.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
26/03/2014	Full	good
30/05/2013	Interim	satisfactory progress
09/01/2013	Full	good
13/06/2012	Interim	good progress

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

Statutory Requirements

This section sets out the actions which must be taken so that the registered person/s meets the Care Standards Act 2000, Children's Homes Regulations 2001 and the National Minimum Standards. The registered person(s) must comply with the given timescales.

Reg.	Requirement	Due date
30 (2001)	ensure that when any event listed in column 1 of the table in schedule 5 takes place, the registered person without delay notifies the persons indicated in respect of the event in column 2 of the table (Regulation 30 (1))	15/09/2014

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.