

Inspection report for children's home

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<b>Unique reference number</b>	SC462951
<b>Inspector</b>	Rosemary Dancer
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Interim
<b>Provision subtype</b>	Children's home

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<b>Registered person</b>	ERA Care Limited
<b>Registered person address</b>	Unit G22 Allen House The Maltings, Station Road Sawbridgeworth Hertfordshire CM21 9JX
<b>Responsible individual</b>	Stephen Milton
<b>Registered manager</b>	Francis Williams
<b>Date of last inspection</b>	10/10/2013

<b>Inspection date</b>	03/09/2014
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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**.

This inspection was carried out to assess the progress the home has made in meeting the recommendations made at the last inspection and to evaluate the experiences and progress of the young people living in the home.

The two recommendations made at the last inspection have both been addressed. This means that relationships with neighbours have improved and there have been no further complaints made by them. It has also meant that staff who are in their probationary period receive regular supervision; this ensures that they are supported effectively to carry out their roles.

The home plans well for the admissions of a young person. Needs and compatibility assessments are carried out to ensure that their needs can be met by the staff and that they will fit in with the current group of young people. Independence planning and support to young people to learn the skills they will need to live independently has led to some young people moving on successfully from the home into independent living arrangements.

Social workers working with young people are positive about their progress. One social worker said she was very happy with the way the home is working with the young person and with her. This young person has not lived in the home for long but the social worker feels that staff have taken on board his needs and are meeting these well. For example, there have been improvements in the young person engaging in work to consider his educational placement. The home works well with other agencies to support young people who offend. Young people have built up positive relationships with staff and develop respect for them. A social worker called this 'brilliant' and is hopeful for the young person's future.

Staff are committed to supporting young people to grow and develop into useful

members of society. They are concerned for their welfare and support them to learn about the risks they put themselves in through going missing or being absent. Behaviour management strategies are overall effective and are underpinned by comprehensive behaviour management plans. There remain low levels of restraints and sanctions and this indicates that behaviour management plans are effective. However, records of restraint are maintained in a form that could be tampered with.

The home is managed well overall and this is reflected in the progress that young people make. However, while the management know the strengths and areas of weaknesses the monitoring arrangements are limited to assessing that regulations and standards are met. This means that there is little focus on driving improvements to improve the overall effectiveness of the home. The monitoring reports submitted to Ofsted from the independent visitor and the manager do not include consultation with young people, their parents or their social workers. This means that these important views are not gained to further shape and develop the services.

Staff are well supported to carry out their roles and have their training needs met well. The team consists of staff who know the young people well.

## Information about this children's home

This privately owned children's home provides care and accommodation for two young people with emotional or behavioural difficulties.

## Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
10/10/2013	Full	good

## 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
33 (2001)	ensure the independent person, when carrying out a visit interviews children accommodated there, their parents, relatives and persons working at the children's home as appears necessary to form an opinion as to whether children are effectively safeguarded and the conduct of the home promotes the well-being of children (Regulation 33 8 (a) (i) (ii))	31/10/2014
34 (2001)	ensure that the system for monitoring the matters set out in Schedule 6 improves the quality of care and provides for consultation with children accommodated in the home, their parents and placing authorities (Regulation 34 (1) (b) and (3))	31/10/2014

## Recommendations

To improve the quality and standards of care further the service should take account of the following recommendation(s):

- ensure any measure of restraint is carefully recorded with full details by the s'

involved within 24 hours in a record kept for this purpose. With specific reference to ensuring all records are in formats that cannot be tampered with after the event (Volume 5 Children's Homes Statutory Guidance 2.91)

## **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.