

Inspection report for children's home

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| Unique reference number | SC039213 |
| Inspector | Sandra Jacobs-Walls |
| Type of inspection | Interim |
| Provision subtype | Children's home |

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|--------------------------------|-------------|
| Registered manager | POST VACANT |
| Date of last inspection | 18/06/2014 |

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| Inspection date | 24/11/2014 |
| Previous inspection | adequate |
| Enforcement action since last inspection | none |

This inspection

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

At the previous inspection conducted in June 2014, two requirements were made. These related to the service having a registered manager in place and the completion of regulation 34, quality of care reports. The home's manager is currently in the process of being registered with Ofsted. During this inspection, the home evidenced two completed quality of care reports covering the period since the last inspection.

In addition, the previous inspection raised two recommendations. These related to providing written guidance to staff about homely remedies and the development of a staff training programme. This inspection finds that both these recommendations have been resolved satisfactorily.

The home's care planning processes are good and young people's placement needs are established early on in placement negotiations. Placement planning meetings are consistently convened to ensure the service is aware of and is able to meet young people's identified needs. Staff ensure they receive good information from placing authorities to help achieve placement goals.

Young people continue to make good progress while in placement and their outcomes are generally positive. Most young people are well engaged in their educational provision, attend school/college regularly and are making academic progress. For those reluctant to fully engage with their education, staff, the placing authority and educational professionals are working collaboratively to help meet young people's learning needs. Young people live healthy lifestyles and make good use of primary and specialist health care services such the local ante-natal clinic. Staff ensure that health care appointments are made, attended by young people and that any treatment plans are followed up.

Young people generally speak positively about their relationship with the staff team and feel staff are interested in their continued progress. One young person comments, 'It's alright here, most staff are OK. I like my key workers, they're cool..... I rate the home 5.5 out of 10'. Staff in turn enjoy helping young people meet their full potential. A staff member comments 'I like working with the young people. I like the challenge and the unexpectedness of each shift. I learn a lot from the young people, and I like to offer guidance to help them'. Young people are aware how complaints are made; none have been received from any young person since the last inspection. Key work sessions and the home's weekly residents' meetings facilitate consultation with young people to ensure their views and opinions are known.

Young people are protected by the service and young people say they feel safe. Staff continue to receive support and training around safeguarding issues and this features in the induction of newly recruited staff. The vetting of new employees is comprehensive and safe. Staff respond appropriately to incidents when young people are absent without permission or are deemed missing. Critical incidents are managed appropriately and Ofsted is informed of significant events. Since the last inspection no young person has been restrained and staff make appropriate use of sanctions and rewards to promote positive behaviour. The home has received three complaints since the last inspection. All have been resolved in line with the home's complaint procedures. No allegations have been made by young people against the service.

The home does not yet have a registered manager in place, the current manager is in the process of being registered with Ofsted. Managers adequately monitor the home's quality of care. Monitoring reports as required by Regulation 34 quality of care reports are completed, however these are not forwarded to Ofsted as required. Monthly unannounced regulation 33 visits are consistently conducted. Subsequent reports provide the service with adequate insight into the home's strengths and areas for improvement.

Information about this children's home

This is a privately run children's home. The home provides care, support and accommodation for up to six young people of either gender. The service accepts referrals for young people who have emotional or behavioural difficulties.

Currently the home does not have a Registered Manager, the home's manager is in the process of being registered with Ofsted.

Recent inspection history

| Inspection date | Inspection type | Inspection judgement |
|-----------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| 18/06/2014 | Full | adequate |
| 26/03/2014 | Interim | good progress |
| 22/01/2014 | Full | adequate |
| 16/01/2013 | 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 |
|-----------|--|------------|
| 8 (2001) | ensure that the home has in place a manager who is registered with Ofsted (Care Standards Act 2000; Section 11) | 31/03/2015 |
| 34 (2001) | supply to HMCI a report in respect of any review conducted for the purpose of paragraph (1) Regulation 34. (Regulation 34 (2)) | 02/01/2015 |

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.