

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC431807
Inspector	Stephen Collett
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Registered person	SWAAY Child and Adolescent Services Limited
Registered person address	132 The Street West Horsley LEATHERHEAD Surrey KT24 6DB
Responsible individual	Gerard Colin Berry
Registered manager	POST VACANT
Date of last inspection	03/06/2014

Inspection date	05/02/2015
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 **improved effectiveness**.

At the time of the last full inspection in June 2014, the home had experienced a number of challenges which were exacerbated by inconsistent management arrangements. A new Registered Manager had introduced a number of changes which were beginning to improve practice and outcomes for young people. These improvements have been maintained and young people receive a good quality of care.

The requirement made at the last inspection in relation to administering medication has been fully addressed, and staff now practice in a way that minimises the risk of medication being misused. Medication records are monitored by the Registered Manager and generally a high standard is maintained, although one minor recording error was identified. This did not have a negative impact on the young person concerned.

All recommendations made at the last inspection have been acted upon. Young people now have easy access to information relating to advocacy services, and the home's development plan is a more effective tool for ensuring continuous improvement. The standard of risk assessments has improved greatly, and these now reflect young people's individual circumstances and vulnerabilities. Risk assessments are regularly reviewed and amended and are used to inform individual behaviour management strategies.

Young people make good progress in terms of their educational engagement and academic achievement. Some young people undertake volunteering, and this further enhances their prospects for securing a place on their chosen college course. All young people engage in therapy and over time they begin to address their emotional and psychological difficulties.

Young people enjoy positive relationships with staff, and develop a sense of feeling valued and well cared for. Staff encourage young people to do well in education and engage in community based activities. Special events are celebrated, and this further increases young people's self-esteem. Young people also enjoy positive peer relationships and all engage fully in opportunities to influence how the home is run.

Staff quickly identify young people's changing care needs and take swift action to ensure they receive appropriate support. The organisation is particularly effective in accessing its range of professionals and resources to ensure that young people experiencing a crisis have their needs quickly assessed and appropriate support packages are put in place.

Safeguarding practice within the home is robust, and consequently young people report that they feel safe and can talk to staff about their concerns. Any incidents of bullying are quickly identified and comprehensive measures are put in place to prevent escalation. Young people are therefore confident in the ability of staff to manage bullying when it occurs.

The Registered Manager ensures that any child protection concerns are promptly reported to the appropriate authorities and support put in place for the young person concerned. Any issues relating to poor staff performance are quickly identified and consultation with the Local Authority Designated Officer takes place when necessary. Organisational procedures ensure that poor practice is thoroughly investigated, and measures are put in place to support staff to improve where shortfalls have been identified.

The home has benefitted from effective leadership and management, which has ensured the development of the service in recent months. The quality of care is effectively monitored, so that any weaknesses are quickly identified and remedial action taken. However, on one occasion the regulator Ofsted was not notified of an event relating to an investigation of a staff member.

Leaders and managers respond effectively to any complaints made by young people, and keep them informed of any actions taken as a result. Consequently, the complaints process is an effective tool for ensuring practice development and improved quality of care. Any action taken in response to a complaint is recorded, although not necessarily in one central log.

The requirement and recommendations made at the last inspection have all been actioned. As a result of this inspection, one requirement has been made in relation to ensuring notifications are sent to Ofsted.

Information about this children's home

The service is a four-bedded children's home registered for boys with emotional and behavioural difficulties.

The home is owned and operated by a private organisation that specialises in the assessment and treatment of male adolescents who have experienced abuse. The organisation also provides educational and therapeutic training.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
03/06/2014	Full	adequate
13/01/2014	Interim	satisfactory progress
18/09/2013	Full	adequate
21/01/2013	Interim	satisfactory 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 if any of the events listed in column 1 of the table in Schedule 5 take place, the registered person shall without delay notify the persons indicated in respect of the event in column 2 of the table. (Regulation 30 (1))	13/03/2015

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.