

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC032058
Inspector	Jennie Christopher
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Registered person	Buckinghamshire County Council
Registered person address	Chief Officer County Hall, Walton Street AYLESBURY Buckinghamshire HP20 1UA
Responsible individual	Steve Tanner
Registered manager	Carla Eve Keyte
Date of last inspection	09/09/2014

Inspection date	09/02/2015
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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 **improved effectiveness**.

The home was last inspected in September 2014, where it was judged good in all areas. Young people continue to make good progress throughout their time living in the home. Staff are continually evolving their practice to ensure they are able to best meet the needs of the young people they care for. Young people are positive about staff and how they are looked after. They comment on how they are listened to, including changes in pocket money, since the last inspection. Young people are comfortable approaching staff, sharing their day's news on return from education. They are skilled in negotiation and confident in sharing their ideas. Young people who have moved on maintain links with staff through ad hoc telephone calls and visits, often maintaining contact for many years after they have left.

One young person has moved into the home since the last inspection. Planning prior to placement is thorough and tailored to individual needs and circumstances. The management team are thoughtful in how they will meet individual's needs safely while considering the needs of the rest of the group. Care plans have dramatically improved since the last inspection. They reflect on life history and experiences, in addition to expressing what is important to individuals and how they should be cared for. The booklet style document includes day to day care, risk assessments and how to support individuals when they are distressed or upset. These highly personalised plans afford space to recognise achievements in addition to future goals and areas for development. Individual successes include; reduction in substance misuse and offending; reduction in incidents of unwanted behaviour and increased positive engagement in social activities; success in education and training and increased trust and independence.

Staff create a calm and increasingly nurturing environment where young people say they feel safe. Improved consistency in approach to managing anxiety and distress has led to a limited use of restraint. Interventions focus on de-escalation and

redirection rather than holding. Sanctions are fair and proportionate with most young people keen to share their views on the effectiveness of the measure. Extremely effective evaluation of significant incidents provides a reflective approach to behaviour management. Young people do go missing from care on occasions; however joint working and effective close liaison with specialist police officers and external organisations ensures individuals are protected as best as possible through risk management plans. On return, young people have the best support possible to reflect on the risks and reasons they go missing. Further support from emotional wellbeing, youth offending and drug and alcohol services ensures young people receive specialist intervention when they are struggling or in crisis.

The suitably qualified and experienced Registered Manager is effectively leading the enthusiastic staff team. She has forged considerable change in the approach to care practice, which is now entrenched in daily routine within the home. Staff are confident in their roles and have a good understanding of the young people they care for. Key workers are well informed on the individual needs and progress of their key child. Partnership working is entrenched in daily practice. Regular meetings between staff and a variety of agencies ensures plans for young people are consistent and amended when required. External and managers monitoring highlights areas for improvement within the home and notes any significant trends and patterns. The manager is keen to further develop the home and staff team, seeking collaborative working and training with other relevant organisations. The fabric of the building is much improved, providing a homely environment. Plans are also underway to replace the tired and worn kitchen.

Information about this children's home

This is a local authority children's home, providing residential care for up to six young people with emotional and behavioural difficulties.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
09/09/2014	Full	good
17/10/2013	Interim	satisfactory progress
30/04/2013	Full	adequate
18/03/2013	Interim	satisfactory progress

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.