

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC375540
Inspector	Debbie Foster
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Registered person	Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
Registered person address	Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council, Riverside House Main Street ROTHERHAM South Yorkshire S60 1AE
Responsible individual	Jane Parfremment
Registered manager	Karen Kennedy
Date of last inspection	23/09/2014

Inspection date	17/02/2015
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 **declined in effectiveness**.

The quality of care provided to young people has not been fully sustained in areas relating to individuals education, behaviour and independence. Some young people continue to be involved in high risk behaviour.

Action is required to address the shortfalls that were identified at the last inspection. However, not all the requirements and recommendations made have been implemented.

Two of the three requirements that were made at the last inspection have not been met. Ofsted have not received notifications without delay. This means the regulator is not informed of serious events and the action taken to safeguard young people in a timely manner. Consultation with children accommodated in the home, their parents and placing authorities have not routinely taken place in the manager's monthly monitoring. This does not demonstrate that young people and others views are sought and listened to, to influence changes in practice, the running of the home or to the care provided.

One recommendation has not been met. The views of young people have not consistently been sought or recorded following a physical restraints or on the outcome of any complaints made. As a result, it is not clear if young people are satisfied with this action.

Further requirements and recommendations have been made as a result of this inspection.

Regulation 33 monthly monitoring reports have identified a number of deficiencies and recommends action to be taken to make improvement to the quality care and the safeguarding of young people. Action has not been taken to address all of these

areas promptly. It has taken several months to address staff shortages, behaviour management, compatibility of placements and team building.

Since the last inspection the home has had staff shortages, which relate to long term absences and four vacancies. Interim arrangements to cover the deficits have been put in place. This has involved agency staff, along with permanent staff working additional hours to cover the rota and provided adequate staffing levels. However, this has not provided young people with consistency of care throughout this period.

Where the appropriateness of a young person's placement has come into question, the local authority has taken action but this has not been undertaken promptly.

One requirement and two recommendations have been met; significant incidents are now appropriately recorded within the manager's monthly monitoring system. This more clearly reflects on the action taken and the care provided to young people in such instances.

A recommendation to improve the written record kept by the home when a young person goes missing has been met. This gives clearer detail of the action taken by the staff to safeguard young people.

Staff and senior managers are now clear about the action to take to ensure appropriate management arrangements are in place when the registered manager is absent. This makes sure suitable and appropriate management support is provided to assist in the effective running of the home.

A positive and detailed piece of work has been undertaken with individual young people as well as a whole group on bullying. This is in response to address bullying behaviour which has taken place. Young people say that bullying is not taking place now; they are clear that such behaviour is not tolerated.

Incidents of young people going missing are low in occurrence. The staff team have experience of working and supporting young people who may be at risk to child sexual exploitation. Particular staff have a lead role in this area and links with the sexual exploitation team are in place. There are specific risk assessments relating to exploitation. These are being followed to safeguard young people where required.

Staff give high importance of young people attending education. The majority of young people are attending education or alternative provisions. Some are on track to achieve GCSE's. Others are being supported to attend and increase time in educational placements.

The core staff team are dedicated committed and are aware of the needs of young people. They are persevering in working with young people who require support to manage their emotions, behaviour and build attachments. Young people say, 'staff are ok here,' and, 'I get on with all the staff.'

Since the last inspection, some improvements have been made to the environment, with young people's bedrooms being decorated and refurbished with new furniture and floor coverings. A young person said, 'I've got a nice room.' This provides young people with a suitable and comfortable home to live in.

Information about this children's home

The children's home is run by a local authority. It is registered to accommodate up to six young people of either gender. The home provides care and accommodation to young people with emotional or behavioural difficulties on a long-term basis.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
23/09/2014	Full	adequate
11/02/2014	Interim	inadequate progress
29/08/2013	Full	good
07/02/2013	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
30 (2001)	ensure that if any of the events listed in column 1 of the table in Schedule 5 takes 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))	18/02/2015
34 (2001)	ensure that the registered person's system for monitoring referred to in paragraph (1) shall provide for consultation with children accommodated in the home, their parents and placing authorities (Regulation 34 (3))	28/03/2015
33 (2001)	ensure that the independent person, when carrying out a visit shall attain views in order to form an opinion as to whether the children are effectively safeguarded and the home promotes the wellbeing of the children accommodated (Regulation 33 (8))	28/04/2014

	(a) (i) and (ii)) In particular, recommendations made relating to the welfare and safeguarding of young people are swiftly addressed	
11 (2001)	ensure that the children's home is conducted so as to promote and make proper provision for the safeguarding and welfare of children accommodated. (Regulation 11(1)(a)) Specifically that the home only admits children where their individual needs can be met taking into account the needs of the of the children already accommodated. Prompt action is taken where placements are deemed unsuitable.	28/04/2015

Recommendations

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

- ensure that all children communicate their views on all aspects of their care and support, in particular following a restraint or their response to any complaint made (NMS 1.3)
- The registered person makes every effort to achieve continuity of staffing so that children's attachments are not overly disrupted. (NMS 17.8)

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.