

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC020171
Inspector	Rachel Griffiths
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Registered person	Arnfield Care Limited
Registered person address	Brookbank House Wellington Road, Bollington Macclesfield Cheshire SK10 5JR
Responsible individual	Wayne Relf
Registered manager	Paul Bernard Vella
Date of last inspection	08/10/2014

Inspection date	26/02/2015
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Previous inspection	outstanding
Enforcement action since last inspection	none

This inspection

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

This home has declined in effectiveness as three requirements have been made at this inspection. The shortfalls relate to the promptness of safeguarding referrals being made; internal quality assurance reports not being sent to the HMCI as required by regulations, and a shortfall in relation to the home's Statement of Purpose.

Following a safeguarding concern being raised in December 2014, immediate action was taken to safeguard young people living in the home by suspending a member of staff while an investigation was undertaken. There was however, a delay in the incident being reported to the appropriate authorities. Any delay prevents immediate and thorough independent investigations being undertaken and ultimately has the potential to impact on levels of safety in the home. Since this incident occurred, lessons have been learnt. Leaders and Managers have reviewed and amended aspects of the homes safeguarding policies. A robust action plan is in progress to improve safeguarding practice. This needs to be fully implemented to ensure that all staff are aware of, and fully implement the amended policy.

Although the Registered Manager has systems in place to monitor the progress young people make and the quality of the service being provided, internal quality assurance reports have not been sent to the HMCI on a regular basis. This does not have a detrimental impact on young people's welfare. It does however limit the ability of the regulator to monitor the leadership and management of the home.

The home's Statement of Purpose is not up to date. In addition, changes in regulations mean that the Statement of Purpose has needed to change in format and content. Leaders and managers have not resubmitted amended documents to Ofsted. Although this is not having an impact on young people's welfare, this is a regulatory shortfall.

Despite the identified shortfalls, young people continue to achieve excellent outcomes. Young people are safer as incidents of risk taking behaviour and going missing have significantly reduced. All young people continue to make considerable progress educationally. All continue to develop a range of life and social skills through the participation in a wide range of activities and experiences in the local community. As a result, young people's confidence continues to develop and their life chances are significantly improved.

Staff continue to provide young people with an outstanding quality of care. The manager and staff are very knowledgeable in respect of young people's complex individual needs and they maintain excellent relationships with them. Young people describe staff as 'brilliant' and 'ten out of ten'. The manager and staff are strong advocates for young people. They have positive relationships with placing authorities and partner agencies. When a specific need is identified, for example, specialist therapeutic support, the manager works tirelessly to ensure that appropriate services are identified and provided with minimum delay. Strong and positive working relationships with a wide range of professionals ensures that young people have access to the most appropriate support to address their difficulties. This provides young people with the best opportunity to reach their full potential.

Young people have a strong sense of safety in this home. A young person said: 'The staff keep us safe here by looking after us well. They are brilliant and there is always someone to talk to.' Bullying is not tolerated; young people develop mutual respect for each other and get on well together. This provides young people with a further sense of safety and security.

Young people's behaviour is well managed and it significantly improves and stabilises. Young people are motivated by positive incentives which are offered in return for positive behaviour. As a result of effective and proactive behaviour management strategies, the use of consequences and physical intervention is minimal. Regular reviews of patterns and trends in behaviour ensure that behaviour plans remain effective and that practice in this area remains of a high standard.

The management of this home remains strong. Two recommendations made at the last inspection have been met. Medication practices are now robust and notifications are consistently sent to Ofsted in a timely manner. The Registered Manager is insightful and reflective. He is passionate about improving the lives of young people. Staff share his vision, and in consultation with them and with young people, he continues to look for ways to improve the service further.

Information about this children's home

The home offers long-term care for up to seven children and young people with emotional and behavioural difficulties. A private company operates this home alongside its other home.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
08/10/2014	Full	outstanding
05/02/2014	Interim	good progress
15/05/2013	Full	outstanding
09/01/2013	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
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 there (Regulation 11(1) (a))	24/04/2015
5 (2001)	ensure that the Statement of Purpose is kept under review, and where appropriate, revise it and notify HMCI of any such revisions within 28 days (Regulation 5 (a) (b))	24/04/2015
34 (2001)	ensure the registered person establishes and maintains a system for monitoring the Matters set out in schedule 6 at least every 3 months and supply to HMCI a report in respect of any review conducted by him. (Regulation 34 (1) (a) (2))	24/04/2015

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.