

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC047894
Inspector	Rosie Davie
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Registered person	Care Focus Limited
Registered person address	Care Focus Ltd 18 Bury Street STOWMARKET Suffolk IP14 1HH
Responsible individual	Jean Lloyd
Registered manager	Paula Jane Warren
Date of last inspection	10/12/2014

Inspection date	24/03/2015
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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**.

Managers have met the previous requirement and recommendations. This inspection makes one recommendation in relation to recording.

Young people make significant progress. They access education in the home or in the community. Some are achieving 100 per cent attendance. Staff motivate young people creatively to take an interest in learning. They help and expect them to complete homework.

Young people learn new skills and make planned transitions to semi-independent living.

Young people are provided with consistent support to understand their emotions. They receive structured time from therapists and when required, access local mental health services. One young person said: 'Whenever I have needed someone to talk to the staff have always been there. They have done everything that they can to facilitate my well-being.'

Staff encourage parents and relatives to visit the home. This is positive for young people and helps them to maintain and rebuild significant relationships.

Young people say that staff recognise when they are behaving well. One young person said: 'When we do something that is above and beyond what is expected, staff notice this and reward us.' The frequency and intensity of young people's outbursts has decreased. Physical intervention has decreased. The numbers of unauthorised absence has reduced significantly. Missing from home is rare. Staff follow protocols and engage appropriately with agencies in the event of an incident of missing. To improve practice, a refresh of the detail kept of written records in the event of young people leaving the home is recommended.

Staff routinely carry out health and safety checks. Young people are involved in fire drills. This helps to keep young people safe in the event of an emergency.

Staff receive regular supervision and say that they are well supported by the managers. The Registered Manager intervenes swiftly to deal with practice issues. To further improve practice, the Registered Manager has introduced new systems, which encourage staff to reflect on their work.

Together the managers and staff are making a positive and meaningful difference. One young person said: 'Since being here, my life has turned around for the better. I am now thinking about my future and getting a job.'

Information about this children's home

This home is one of a group, run by an independent provider. Staff offer care and support for up to four young women. Teachers provide education within the setting. Direct therapeutic support is available for each young person to access.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
10/12/2014	Full	good
11/03/2014	Interim	good progress
03/10/2013	Full	adequate
20/11/2012	Interim	good progress

What does the children's home need to do to improve further?

Recommendations

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

- ensure written records kept by the home when a child goes missing detail action taken by staff, the circumstances of the child's return, any reasons given. This is with specific reference to the log for identifying trends and patterns to unauthorised absences. (NMS 5.10)

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.