

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC068559
Inspector	Melissa McMillan
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Registered person	PJL Healthcare Limited
Registered person address	The White House Station Road, Withyham Hartfield East Sussex TN7 4BT
Responsible individual	Paul Sellars
Registered manager	Christopher John Coleman
Date of last inspection	04/09/2014

Inspection date	25/02/2015
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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 **sustained effectiveness**.

Young people develop skills and confidence in caring for themselves. This includes practical skills such as completing chores, using public transport and budgeting. By assisting young people to carry out tasks around the home, young people are able to make a positive contribution whilst learning valuable skills in preparation for adulthood. With the support of their keyworkers young people identify the skills they would like to develop and the goals they would like to achieve. Young people's care plans and routines are then formulated to ensure they promote their independence. This allows young people to take on more responsibility. This includes spending more time alone without staff support in preparation for a more independent setting. As a result, young people make significant progress in developing life skills and increase their self-esteem.

Young people are fully involved in their transition planning. Staff assist young people to attend their planning meetings and to make their views and wishes known. Staff support young people to understand what is happening and to discuss their feelings about future changes. Young people visit their prospective placements. Staff support young people to move to their new accommodation and share their knowledge of the young person with new staff to promote a smooth and successful transition.

Young people are able to express their individual choices and wishes. Young people regularly complete questionnaires, attend house meetings and keyworker sessions. This provides young people with opportunities to influence the running of the home and to have a voice, building on their self-confidence. Young people's relationships with staff are affectionate and nurturing and they enjoy a relaxed and homely environment. Young people are confident to approach staff for help. Young people say that they feel safe at the home.

Young people benefit from strong links that staff build with external agencies. This is

demonstrated through effective communication between staff, health professionals and placing social workers. Staff are proactive in supporting young people to attend school or college. Staff liaise closely with the young people's educational establishments to ensure young people receive a consistent approach in meeting their development needs. Where young people find it difficult to maintain good attendance staff have devised effective strategies to achieve this. Staff also visit the young people at school or college to observe their participation and behaviour. This ensures that appropriate support is in place to assist young people's educational progress and maximise their potential. Staff assist young people who are no longer in full time education to obtain work placements to enhance their future opportunities in adulthood. The home maintains good communication with parents and carers. Staff facilitate contact between young people and their relatives to enable them to maintain positive attachments with those they consider important to them.

Young people's care plans are detailed and individualised. They inform staff of the young person's unique needs and personal history. The guidelines set out in young people's care plans ensure staff use a personalised and consistent approach. Young people are involved in their care planning and work with their keyworkers to advise staff how to care for them and to promote their development. Young people's risk assessments advise of potential hazards. However, each young person has a substantial amount of risk assessments in place, sometimes up to 64 different assessments. The large number of different assessments means staff have a vast amount of information to navigate through, understand and remember. Many of the risk assessments are standardised and not individualised and do not sufficiently address risks around internet enabled devices and social media. The Registered Manager is aware of these issues and has ensured that the majority of staff have undertaken training in E-safety to gain a better understanding of how to protect young people. He is also in the process of reviewing and redesigning the young people's risk assessments.

The majority of physical interventions at the home are low level such as a hair pull or bite release. However, there have been times when a high level of physical intervention has been required to address unsafe behaviour, minimise risk and protect young people. In these instances, staff are not always recording what is required by regulation including what de-escalations techniques or what physical interventions were used. Some incident forms, which provide further information for entries in the restraint log, were missing. This hinders the Registered Manager's analysis and evaluation of staff's approach to unsafe behaviour and the use of physical intervention in the home.

Improvements to the home's fire safety practices are required. A recent fire safety audit found that young people's safety had been compromised. The audit advised that the front fire exit to one of the houses needed replacing whilst a number of fire doors in other houses also needed replacing. The Registered Manager is urgently taking action to address these matters.

Information about this children's home

This children's home is registered to provide care and accommodation for up to 16 children and young people who have a learning disability. The service is privately owned. A respite/short break service is provided. Young people may stay in the home on an independence programme until the age of 25.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
04/09/2014	Full	outstanding
23/01/2014	Interim	good progress
21/08/2013	Full	good
15/01/2013	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
17 (2001)	ensure a written record is made of the use of any measure of control, restraint or discipline, in a volume kept for the purpose of which shall include the matters listed in this regulation (Regulation 17B (3) (a) - (i) and (4) (a) and (b))	31/03/2015
32 (2001)	ensure that after consultation with the fire and rescue authority that the provision of suitable fire equipment is provided and there is an adequate means of escape. This is in regards to fire doors and fire exits. (Regulation 32 (1) (a) - (e))	31/03/2015

Recommendations

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

- ensure that the home implements a proportionate approach to any risk assessment. (NMS 4.5)

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.