

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC431804
Inspector	Stephen Collett
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Registered person	SWAAY Child and Adolescent Services Limited
Registered person address	132 The Street West Horsley LEATHERHEAD Surrey KT24 6DB
Responsible individual	Gerard Colin Berry
Registered manager	Dennis Visser
Date of last inspection	05/08/2014

Inspection date	11/03/2015
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 **sustained effectiveness**.

At the last full inspection in August 2014 the home was judged to be adequate for overall effectiveness, and one requirement and five recommendations were made. The requirement and recommendations have all been acted upon, and good progress has been made in many areas of practice. The home is judged to have sustained the level of overall effectiveness since the last full inspection.

The requirement made at the last inspection in relation to recording physical restraints has been fully met. Despite the fact that physical restraints rarely occur, there is now a process in place for recording such incidents which is compliant with statutory regulations.

In recent months there have been occasions when young people have experienced bullying. However, the Registered Manager has acted upon the recommendation made at the last inspection and taken pro-active steps to ensure the issue is addressed. All negative interactions between young people are now recorded, and this allows staff to identify concerns and recognise trends. The Registered Manager has individual meetings with young people on a regular basis, in order that they can share any concerns, and bullying is regularly addressed in young people's meetings.

Records kept relating to young people going missing are now of a high standard. The home ensures arrangements are in place for young people to have an independent return home interview following a missing episode, and any information emerging from these meetings is fully recorded and evaluated.

There has also been an improvement in the quality of risk assessments in place to ensure young people's welfare and safety. These clearly define the responsibilities staff have in mitigating and preventing risk, and take full account of all the relevant background information regarding young people's vulnerabilities. Staff are familiar

with the content of risk assessments, and there is a process in place to ensure staff read any updates or amendments made to a young person's risk assessment.

The recommendation relating to young people's placement plans has been actioned, and plans now clearly identify the goals young people are working towards and the progress they have made. Young people contribute towards reviewing these plans, and their comments are recorded. This has ensured all staff and young people are familiar with progress made, and targets that still need to be achieved, and this contributes towards consistent care being delivered.

There has been an overall improvement in the standard of record keeping at the home, and the Registered Manager monitors the situation to ensure high standards are maintained.

Most young people make good progress in many aspects of their lives, although at the time of the inspection some young people were not engaging in education or training. When concerns emerge regarding young people's progress, management and staff ensure young people are able to access the specialist support provided by the organisation to resolve difficulties. Placing authorities are kept fully informed and consulted in order that plans can be reviewed and amended to meet the changing needs of young people.

Young people enjoy positive relationships with staff, and have the confidence to share their worries and concerns. Staff have a thorough understanding of the young people's needs, and provide consistently high levels of care. Young people feel valued and most enjoy improved levels of self-esteem. Peer relationships have not always been positive in recent months, but management and staff manage any conflict between young people well.

There have been some recent shortfalls in the standard of safeguarding practice. On one occasion a young person was insufficiently supervised and monitored and was able to access inappropriate material on the internet for a significant period of time. In a separate incident, a member of staff did not follow company policy and consequently a young person was able to inappropriately use an electronic device belonging to the staff member. Both matters have been investigated internally and the police have been informed of any potential illegal activity. Although the home has a good record of consulting the Local Authority Designated Officer regarding any issues relating to poor practice, consultation has not taken place regarding the breach of company policy.

Managers have ensured that shortfalls in the performance of staff and safeguarding practice have been investigated and remedial action taken. Internal professional meetings have also taken place to ensure that areas for improvement are identified and addressed. Staff feel well supported by management and access a comprehensive training programme which ensures their knowledge and skills are developed. The Registered Manager has a good understanding of the strengths and

weaknesses of the home, and demonstrates a commitment to ensuring continuous improvement.

As a result of this inspection two requirements are made in order to address the shortfalls identified in the standard of safeguarding practice.

Information about this children's home

The service is a four-bedded children's home registered for boys with emotional and behavioural difficulties.

The home is owned and operated by a private organisation that specialises in the assessment and treatment of male adolescents who have experienced some form of abuse and have subsequently been involved in perpetrating abusive behaviour themselves.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
05/08/2014	Full	adequate
28/01/2014	Interim	good progress
12/06/2013	Full	adequate
04/02/2013	Interim	inadequate 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 make proper provision for the supervision of children accommodated there; specifically ensure that young people are sufficiently supervised to prevent them accessing inappropriate material on the internet (Regulation 11 (1) (b))	30/04/2015
25 (2001)	ensure that there is at all times sufficient competent persons working at the children's home; in particular ensure that staff follow company policies in place to prevent the misuse of staff members personal belongings. (Regulation 25 (1))	30/04/2015

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.