

Children's homes - interim inspection

Inspection date	21/10/2015
Unique reference number	SC415347
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home
Registered person	Options BESD (1) Limited
Registered person address	Turnpike Gate House, Alcester Heath, Alcester, Warwickshire, B49 5JG

Responsible individual	Richard Jones
Registered manager	Mark Duckers
Inspector	Rebecca Quested

Inspection date	21/10/2015
Previous inspection judgement	Good
Enforcement action since last inspection	None
This inspection	
The effectiveness of the home and the progress and experiences of children and young people since the most recent full inspection	
<p>This home was judged Good at the full inspection. At this interim inspection Ofsted judge that it has sustained effectiveness.</p> <p>Children and young people make good progress from their starting points. Staff ensure that even where children and young people have complex needs, they enhance their life chances. Staff develop positive relationships with them. Highly individualised and detailed risk assessments and behaviour management plans enable children and young people to receive the right care. Children and young people make progress in being able to talk about difficult feelings. Staff support them to have contact with family and friends where that is safe and in their best interests; this includes those who live considerable distances from their homes. This promotes children and young people's identities and helps them to sustain attachments.</p> <p>Staff support children and young people to engage in education. They liaise effectively with placing authorities, the virtual school head, and schools and colleges, to ensure that the appropriate education is provided. Where there are delays in children and young people accessing education, they support their learning with the use of home tutors. This enables them to gain confidence before joining the classroom environment.</p> <p>Staff provide nurturing care in line with the home's statement of purpose. Children and young people receive therapeutic support, directly and indirectly, from the home's therapist. This informs their assessments and plans and results in staff providing care which is tailored to their specific needs. Children and young people enjoy living in the home and describe it as 'great'. They take part in varied activities such as attending the skate park, visiting museums, going to the beach and using the home's trampoline.</p> <p>Staff receive training which supports the therapeutic care they provide, for example, in attachments and self-harm. Staff are skilled in de-escalation techniques and incidents of restraint reduce over time; any patterns and changes are carefully monitored and inform practice. A social worker described how: 'staff understand my child's needs more, he can trust the staff and open up to them and apologise which is good progress. There is more dialogue and he is listening to</p>	

staff.'

Staff ensure that children and young people live in a safe environment and provide help and support so they become increasingly safe. Children and young people go missing from home only infrequently. Staff have developed positive relationships with the police. Consequently there is a co-ordinated response when children and young people do go missing. This ensures that they are at risk of harm for a minimum amount of time. Staff promote positive behaviour and safely de-escalate most challenging behaviours. They work effectively with stakeholders and professional partners so that children and young people are not unnecessarily criminalised.

Staff work in partnership with families and stakeholders to improve children and young people's progress. Staff are proactive in challenging the child and adolescent mental health service when there are delays in their assessments or placing authorities when there are shortfalls. This promotes children and young people's health and welfare.

The registered manager continues to provide good formal and informal support to his staff team which recognises the emotional impact of the work. He undertakes detailed monitoring of the quality of care provided and has ensured that the tools he uses are more effective and useful in providing focus for key work sessions and reviewing behaviour management plans. He has identified that there is a shortfall of one staff member in the team. This post remains vacant and, consequently, children and young people have experienced inconsistent care with a number of different staff covering the staffing shortage. Those relief staff are suitably inducted to the home on each occasion and all appropriate checks are made to ensure only suitable people work in the home.

The registered manager has ensured that previous requirements and recommendations have been met. He maintains the home to a good standard and ensures that any damage is quickly repaired so that children and young people continue to benefit from living in a homely environment.

Information about this children's home

The home is registered to provide care for up to three children with emotional and/or behavioural difficulties. The home forms part of a larger social care company.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
12/05/2015	CH - Full	Good
10/02/2015	CH - Interim	Improved effectiveness
02/07/2014	CH - Full	Adequate
03/02/2014	CH - Interim	Good Progress

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

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 (England) Regulations 2015 and the *Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards*. The registered person(s) must comply with the given timescales.

Requirement	Due date
<p>13: The leadership and management standard</p> <p>In order to meet the leadership and management standard the registered provider must ensure the: -</p> <p>2. (e) home's workforce provides continuity of care to each child.</p>	<p>27/11/2015</p>

What the inspection judgements mean

At the interim inspection 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

Inspectors have looked closely at the experiences and progress of children and young people living in the children's home. Inspectors considered the quality of work and the difference adults make to the lives of children and young people. They read case files, watched how professional staff work with children, young people and each other and discussed the effectiveness of help and care given to children and young people. Wherever possible, they talked to children, young people and their families. In addition the inspectors have tried to understand what the children's home knows about how well it is performing, how well it is doing and what difference it is making for the children and young people who it is trying to help, protect and look after.

This inspection focused on the effectiveness of the home and the progress and experiences of children and young people since the most recent full inspection.

This 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 Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015 and the *Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards*.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the guidance *raising concerns and making complaints about Ofsted*, which is available from Ofsted's website: www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted. If you would like Ofsted to send you a copy of the guidance, please telephone 0300123 4234, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, workbased learning and skills training, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It inspects services for looked after children and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 4234, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

You may reuse this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, visit www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence, write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk.

This publication is available at www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted.

Interested in our work? You can subscribe to our monthly newsletter for more information and updates: <http://eepurl.com/iTrDn>.

Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 1231
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted

© Crown copyright 2015