

Children's homes - interim inspection

Inspection date	22/10/2015
Unique reference number	SC001452
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home
Registered person	Five Rivers Child Care Limited
Registered person address	Five Rivers Childcare, 47 Bedwin Street, SALISBURY, SP1 3UT

Responsible individual	Mausumi Maulik
Registered manager	Carol Perkins
Inspector	Jacqueline Malcolm

Inspection date	22/10/2015
Previous inspection judgement	Good
Enforcement action since last inspection	None
This inspection	
<p>The effectiveness of the home and the progress and experiences of children and young people since the most recent full inspection</p> <p>This home was judged Good at the full inspection in May 2015. At this interim inspection Ofsted judge that it has sustained effectiveness.</p> <p>One of the requirements made at the last visit has been put right and the other shortfall is not fully resolved. The Statement of Purpose has been reviewed and a copy is published on the organisations website. The six monthly review of the quality of care that is produced by the Registered Manager, has provision for obtaining the views of the children. However, the overall report contents are short on evaluation and there are missed opportunities to fully evaluate how the views of children, parents, placing authorities and staff influence improved outcomes for children. Not all of the independent visitor reports confirm in their opinion if children are effectively safeguarded and that the conduct of the home promotes their well-being. The integrity of the visitors report is undermined by 'cutting and pasting' being undertaken. The Registered Manager is addressing these issues to ensure this does not happen again.</p> <p>Since the last inspection, children have successfully and safely moved to other placements. Some remain in contact with the home, which shows their enduring bonds and ability to maintain positive relationships with adults that care about them. Good preparation has resulted in children's positive transitions and this enables them to build on their progress. The Registered Manager said, 'It took four or five of them to bring her here and it took one person when she went' and 'He moved out a different kid.'</p> <p>New children admitted to the home have settled in well, having had a good introduction to the home. This makes them feel well informed about their care and reduces their anxiety levels. They are welcomed into a nurturing home that is furnished and maintained to a high standard. This values children. Some recent decoration and new stair carpets enhances the overall ambiance of the home. Children understand why they are living at the home and some embrace their relevant plans, which are clear and realistic. Their developing and trusting relationships with staff help them to approach the adults around them with any</p>	

concerns. They prosper and adapt to the clear routines and boundaries that are intended to instil in them a sense of safety and security. This also helps them to develop self-discipline and appropriate boundaries. A social worker consulted by the home said, 'It is really positive to hear about the progress he is making across all areas and this is mainly due to the relationships he has developed with the staff team and high levels of skills and awareness shown by workers.'

Proactive behaviour and risk management strategies, coupled with good supervision and staff insight help to minimise opportunities for children to get involved in harmful and threatening situations in the home and community. Staff work hard to ensure the continuous review of children's behaviour management plans in consultation with a different, but well established therapist from the organisation. A member of staff said that they now get, 'Lots of pointers and strategies. He (the therapist) will be coming up for team consultations and will ensure that young people are stabilised.' This results in a better understanding of behaviours and a reduction in incidents. No children have been missing from home and there are no child sexual exploitation concerns. A member of staff said, 'I think we keep them very safe.'

Children benefit from living in a home that places a strong value on their education and supports them to aim high through formal and informal learning experiences. Children who have a history of sporadic or non-school attendance have improved their attendance at the on-site registered school. Their good engagement and progress is recognised and celebrated. For example, at the end of the school day group celebrations are held, which enables children and adults to focus on the positives, which ends the school day on a high note. A social worker consulted by the home about a child's progress said, 'A really good example of this is the progress (name of child) has made with his education as was discussed in the PEP (personal education plan) meeting held yesterday.'

Some staff members have left the home since the last inspection to enhance their own personal and professional development. Internal appointments made to replace the deputy manager, team leader and care staff vacancies provide opportunities for staff to step up and showcase their professional talents. They confirm they are enjoying their new roles and are optimistic for the future. The manager is proud of the staff team and her good use of constructive feedback contributes to making a positive difference to children's lives. She said, 'I have a good team. I am really proud of them.' Staff are very motivated. They consider themselves to be good role models to the children and they speak highly about the support they receive and the developments in the home. Specifically the revamped therapeutic support is making a significant difference to the teams' practice and children's progress. A staff member said, 'I think the team is really settled,

everyone is very supported,' and 'We are really striving together to improve our practice.'

The two requirements raised at this visit do not currently have a detrimental impact on children's safety and welfare.

Information about this children's home

This is a privately owned children's home. The home is currently registered to provide care and accommodation for up to six children with emotional and behavioural difficulties.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
20/05/2015	Full	Good
23/03/2015	Interim	Sustained effectiveness
19/12/2014	Full	Good
06/03/2014	Interim	Not Judged (No children on roll)

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>The independent person must produce a report about a visit ("the independent person's report") which sets out, in particular, the independent person's opinion as to whether –</p> <p>(a) children are effectively safeguarded; and</p> <p>(b) the conduct of the home promotes children's well-being.</p> <p>In particular, ensure that the independent visitors report represents a true and accurate account on the findings of each visit to the home (Regulation 44 (4)(a)(b))</p>	04/12/2015
<p>In order to complete a quality of care review the registered person must establish and maintain a system for monitoring, reviewing and evaluating-</p> <p>(a) the quality of care provided for children</p> <p>(b) the feedback and opinions of children about the children's home, its facilities and the quality of care they receive in it; and</p> <p>The system referred to in paragraph (2) must provide for ascertaining and considering the opinions of children, their parents, placing authorities and staff (Regulation 45(2) (a) (b) and (5)).</p> <p>In particular, provide an evaluative review report of care practices in the home.</p>	04/12/2015

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*.

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