

Children's homes - interim inspection

Inspection date	22/12/2015
Unique reference number	SC055912
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home
Registered person	Verve Life Limited
Registered person address	198 High Street, Burbage, MARLBOROUGH, Wiltshire, SN8 3AB

Responsible individual	David Powell
Registered manager	Clare Alele
Inspector	Julia Wright

Inspection date	22/12/2015
Previous inspection judgement	Requires improvement
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 Requires improvement at the last full inspection. At this interim inspection Ofsted judge that it has improved effectiveness.</p> <p>Three requirements and three recommendations were made at the last inspection in July 2015. All have been met.</p> <p>Good relationships are fostered and maintained with professionals and families ensuring positive and effective communication between all adults for the benefit and protection of young people. A Social Worker commented, 'I am very pleased with the service he is receiving and communication with staff has been very good. I am kept informed of changes and progress'.</p> <p>A new independence training package is in place for young people, ensuring their progress towards semi-independence is measured and progresses. Young people are consulted about targets they would like to meet and additional support and strategies are in place to support ongoing development. For example, one young person is learning about independent travel, another is being helped to settle after a number of changes and upheavals. Young people welcome the support and value the knowledge and skills gained.</p> <p>All staff have undertaken a comprehensive training package regarding the protection of children. They are familiar with the home's policy on protecting children and in particular what their responsibilities are if an allegation is made against staff. The registered manager is reviewing all policies and procedures in the home to ensure they are updated and fit for purpose. The policies for the protection of children have been reviewed and revised and shared with staff. A safeguarding culture is reinforced through regular discussions at team meetings, in staff supervisions, and with young people at their weekly meetings. Young people benefit as their safety and welfare is prioritised and they learn about strategies to protect themselves.</p> <p>Recording of information has improved and staff are familiar with the home's policies on record keeping. New systems have been developed to further enhance and improve daily recordings and to log incoming information to ensure that vital information is not lost. In addition, systems cross reference each other and</p>	

consequently staff quickly identify where information has to be followed up. This means that information about young people is accessible and clear. Young people benefit as staff have access to all available and updated information about them enabling them to meet young people's needs.

Young people continue to progress. Staff are supportive and nurturing and help and assist young people through changes in their lives. They are helped to settle in their home whilst maintaining contact with family and friends, reinforcing bonds with important people in their lives.

Staff work in partnership with education staff and help young people understand safeguarding matters. Young people learn how to keep themselves and others safe, increasing and improving their understanding of responsibility and citizenship.

The staff team is now stable, with new staff joining and contributing to the running of the home. Key working arrangements are being enhanced with managerial oversight to make them more effective. Young people continue to benefit as they are consulted about the running of the home, and feel involved and valued. They contribute to diverse discussions with their keyworkers and in young people's meetings, enhancing their understanding of the world.

The registered manager continues to improve the service for the young people's benefit. She demonstrates good leadership skills and has made considerable improvements to the running of the home. Staff feel supported and focussed on improving the lives of the young people in their care.

Two recommendations are made at this inspection. Not all areas in the home are maintained to the high standard seen elsewhere in the home, in particular the kitchen. This detracts from the welcoming atmosphere for young people. A safe area risk assessment has been completed but lacks detail in identifying risks in the locality and strategies to reduce these. This means not all potential risks have been fully explored.

Information about this children's home

The home is operated by a private provider and is registered to provide care and accommodation for up to four young people with learning disabilities, two of whom may also have physical disabilities.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
22/07/2015	CH - Full	Requires improvement
18/02/2015	CH - Full	Inadequate
07/01/2015	CH - Full	Inadequate
13/08/2014	CH - Interim	Declined in effectiveness

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

Recommendations

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

- Ensure the home provides a clean environment for young people, in particular maintain the high standards of cleanliness and decoration throughout the home, including the kitchen (The Guide to the Quality Standards, page 14, paragraph 3.3).
- The registered person should make best use of information from internal monitoring to ensure continuous improvement, in particular the area location risk assessment (Guide to the Quality Standards page 55 paragraph 10.24).

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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