

Children's homes - interim inspection

Inspection date	04/08/2015
Unique reference number	SC035500
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Secure Unit
Registered person	South Gloucestershire Council
Registered person address	South Gloucestershire adults and health PO box 2083, Castle Street, Thornbury, Bristol, BS35 2BR

Responsible individual	Mr Peter Murphy
Registered manager	Position vacant
Inspector	Mr Kevin Whatley

Inspection date	04/08/2015
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>Robust actions have been taken to address the one requirement and recommendation made at the last inspection; two recommendations relating to education will be evaluated at the next full inspection. Improvements have been made to the living environment which assists staff in keeping young people safe and secure. The recording of personal searches has improved. This includes documenting the reason for their use, such as previous incidents of attempting to smuggle contraband and the level at which they are undertaken. Managers monitor the use of searches well and ensure that they are carried out in line with agreed procedures.</p> <p>Since the last inspection the previous Registered Manager has left the home after being in charge for many years. Good succession planning has resulted in the previous head of care taking over. The transition appears to have gone extremely well with staff commenting positively on the way in which she leads and runs the home. An application to register the manager is currently being processed by Ofsted.</p> <p>Young people say, 'things are good...staff are quick to see problems and deal with them well'. The atmosphere was relaxed and young people were engaging in meaningful conversations with staff.</p> <p>The home remains in a good condition inside and out, was clean and provides young people with a good standard of accommodation and facilities. In recent months some of the television systems, located in young people's bedrooms, have not been working consistently. The manager confirmed an upgrade has been identified which will significantly improve the service. Plans are in place to improve the outdoor environment with young people fully involved in the planning. For instance combining a learning/vocational project to utilise a rarely used area to develop a crazy golf course.</p> <p>Young people benefit from clear routines and structured programmes that promote their learning and development. For example following the last inspection</p>	

considerable efforts have been made to improve vocational learning opportunities. The careers manager has been pro-active in visiting many community placements and as a result has identified a good number of employers who are willing to consider taking on young people for work experience. This has increased the number of options available and will assist in improving the employability of young people when they leave.

The life skills lodge continues to provide a valuable resource. This is particularly notable in supporting young people to learn and develop new self-care skills, improve their ability to be independent and re-engage with their families. In recent weeks this has included assisting a young person to prepare for their successful transition to life back in the community. Other young people who had little or no contact with their families at the point of being admitted have been supported to utilise this more private setting to vastly improve such relationships and re-establish regular contact.

Feedback from the Youth Justice Board confirmed the home meets its obligations, is stable and well run.

Information about this children's home

This secure children's home is operated by a local authority and is approved by the Secretary of State to restrict young people's liberty. Education is provided on site. The children's home can accommodate up to 24 young people, who are aged between 10 and 17 years. Up to 24 young people who have received a custodial sentence can be placed at this home by the Youth Justice Board. Other young people, subject of Section 25 of The Children Act 1989, can be placed by local authorities, with agreement from the Youth Justice Board. Admission of any young person under section 25 of The Children Act 1989 who is under 13 years of age requires the approval of the Secretary of State.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
02/03/2015	CH - Full	Good
02/03/2015	CH - Full	Good
09/09/2014	CH - Full	Good
05/03/2014	CH - Interim	Good Progress

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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