

Children's homes - interim inspection

Inspection date	13/01/2016
Unique reference number	SC384018
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home
Registered person	Surecare Residential Limited
Registered person address	Mey House, Bridport Road, Poundbury, Dorset, DT1 3QY

Responsible individual	Emma Barr
Registered manager	Ricky Phelan
Inspector	Rosie Davie

Inspection date	13/01/2016
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. At this interim inspection Ofsted judge that it has Sustained effectiveness.</p> <p>Since the last full inspection one placement came to an abrupt conclusion. The manager said: 'We did all that we could to help.' Those new to the home speak positively about their experiences. One young person said: 'All of the staff here are lovely and give us the help we need.' This means that progress and experiences vary. Those represented in this inspection said that they feel safe and like living in the home. One young person said: 'This home is so much better than others I have lived in.'</p> <p>Other young people continue and make good progress. They attend school or college and receive help and guidance to encourage them to prepare for their future employment. They receive support to talk about their feelings. This enables them to share personal information which helps staff and those agencies working with them, to understand the impact of their early childhood experiences. One placing local authority social worker said: 'Staff are always in contact. They handle my young person brilliantly. I think the team do a very good job.'</p> <p>Incidents have increased. Staff apply consequences for challenging behaviours, however, records show an inconsistent and on occasion, unrealistic application. This means that young people receive contradictory messages about how the staff team work together to manage challenge. There has been a rise in assaults on staff and occasions of staff contacting the police. External managers ensure the repair of any destruction caused. However, this inspection identified that spoiled aspects in some areas of the home fall short, detracting from the otherwise homely presentation. Records sampled show that physical intervention continues to be a rare occurrence suggesting that staff have chosen not to intervene effectively to de-escalate. This failure to implement consistently, the provider's behaviour management strategy, has contributed to an increase in young people's arrest. The result is the criminalisation of those young people.</p> <p>Missing is a rare, occasional occurrence. Some young people have reduced this behaviour significantly since arrival in the home. When the whereabouts of a young person is unknown staff take the required action to liaise with services and</p>	

ensure there is follow up activity. This helps to keep young people safe from exploitation.

There were no regulations made at the last inspection. One of three recommendations is a repeat; some records sampled were not carefully recorded or were incomplete.

The homes manager has registered with Ofsted since the last inspection. He has a good relationship with the young people, understands their plan. He has begun to put into practice improvements in the running of the home. For example, he is mindful of the position that the home occupies within its immediate area. He has begun to engage with the neighbourhood towards the homes inclusion in the local community.

Information about this children's home

This home is one of a small group run by a private provider. Registration is for up to four young people with emotional and/or behavioural difficulties. The provider operates a school nearby which young people may attend.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
09/06/2015	Full	Good
05/02/2015	Interim	Declined in effectiveness
19/11/2014	Full	Good
05/03/2014	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
The registered person must implement the behaviour management policy which sets out- how appropriate behaviour is to be promoted in the children's home; and the measures of control, discipline and restraint which may be used in relation to children in the home. (Regulation 35 (1) (a) (b))	01/03/2016

Recommendations

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

Ensure there is a consistent approach to maintaining the home as a nurturing, homely domestic environment with specific reference to the hall and maintenance of one upstairs window (The Guide to the Quality Standards, page 15 paragraph 3.9)

Ensure staff put into practice the homes policies on record keeping and understand the importance of careful, objective, and clear recording. (The Guide to the Quality Standards, page 62 paragraph 14.4)

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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