

Children's homes - interim inspection

Inspection date	09/02/2016
Unique reference number	SC457553
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home
Registered manager	Cindy Drew
Inspector	Janice Hawtin

Inspection date	09/02/2016
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>Young people continue to make steady and sustained progress in this home. School attendance remains close to 100%. Young people are studying for final year exams and have clear further education and employment aspirations. One young person wants to join the armed forces and has accepted a college placement leading towards this goal. To support this chosen career he continues to attend and enjoy army cadets on a regular basis.</p> <p>Staff remain dedicated to making sure young people are supported effectively, especially through difficult times. Access to therapy is organised as needed and the staff work in partnership with specialist agency to maximise progress for young people and prepare them for adult life.</p> <p>Young people say this is a 'good place to live' and that they are doing 'OK'. They are relaxed and appear at home in this environment. Since the previous inspection they are keeping four chickens and making good use of the eggs for cooking. One young person is an expert at making and flipping pancakes. Another young person now has a pet Guinea pig which he takes really good care of. Young people continue to learn life skills, they can now add animal husbandry skills to their list of achievements.</p> <p>Improvements to the home continue. The manager has taken effective action to address the one requirement and recommendations set at the previous inspection. The safeguarding policy has been reviewed and updated to include clear guidance to managers about recording and keeping track of concerns. Staff safeguarding training for all staff is up to date.</p> <p>The use of physical restraint to manage behaviour has reduced significantly and no incidents have been recorded since the previous inspection. Forms for recording restraints have been reviewed and updated to capture the information needed and make monitoring easier.</p> <p>The manager has recently reviewed the use of sanctions and rewards to manage</p>	

difficult, and encourage positive behaviour. The emphasis is now on rewarding positive behaviour and young people have chosen the rewards they would like. A young person who is passionate about console gaming has chosen additional time to play games online so he is able to play with others from around the world.

The format of supervision has improved, each session now includes discussion about young people, and practice related issues. Staff have accessed additional training to support their personal and professional development needs.

A lack of consistency in staffing has become a worrying issue in this home which is part of a wider organisation of children's homes. In a two month period more than 12 additional staff from other homes worked here. On occasion staffing changes were made to benefit young people who do not live in this home. This practice doesn't support the attachment needs of young people or consistency of practice which contributes to young people feeling safe. The recent recruitment of an additional member of staff has reduced gaps in the current rota leading to less use of temporary staff in the future.

Young people struggle to use the computer to access the internet. The speed of the service and problems with a security system frustrates young people and doesn't allow access to the safe sites they want to use.

Despite the efforts of the manager to get things sorted out the bedroom door alarms are problematic. The volume and situation of the alarm is such that it unnecessarily wakes the whole house.

Information about this children's home

The home provides care and accommodation for up to two children who may present with emotional and/or behavioural difficulties.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
06/10/2015	CH - Full	Good
18/03/2015	CH - Interim	declined in effectiveness
09/01/2015	CH - Full	Adequate
12/03/2014	CH - Interim	Satisfactory Progress

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 that the registered person demonstrates every effort to achieve consistency of staffing so that children's attachments are not overly disrupted. (The Guide to the Quality Standards, page 51, paragraph 10.1)
- ensure that the use of any monitoring device is compliant with Regulation 24. In particular that bedroom door alarms are no more intrusive than necessary. (The Guide to the Quality Standards, page 16, paragraph 3.16)
- ensure children have access to a computer and the internet to support their education and learning, unless there are specific safeguarding reasons why this should be inappropriate. In such cases, the home should consider whether and how it can support the child to access a computer and the internet safely. (The Guide to the Quality Standards, page 29, paragraph 5.19)

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 2016