

Children's homes - interim inspection

Inspection date	04/02/2016
Unique reference number	SC368032
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home
Registered person	Constant Child Care Ltd
Registered person address	Tameway Tower Ltd, Bridge Street, WALSALL, WS1 1JZ

Responsible individual	Barry Edwards
Registered manager	Post vacant
Inspector	Julia Wright

Inspection date	04/02/2016
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>This home has sustained progress since the last inspection. Two shortfalls have been identified at this inspection in relation to a health and safety matter and in updating risk assessments.</p> <p>Two requirements and one recommendation were made at the last inspection. One requirement concerning the recording of physical intervention incidents has been met and if they review their records, young people will read a clear account of an incident and what steps staff took to avoid the use of physical intervention. This increases their understanding of why it was necessary. Progress has been made regarding a second requirement relating to health and safety concerns. An area of uneven concrete in the garden has been repaired removing the risk of young people tripping over the uneven surface and improving health and safety for all. A large metal gate has been moved to another location in the garden but may still present a safety hazard to young people. A recommendation regarding updating the Children's Guide with the details of the Children's Commissioner has been met and young people know how to contact the office of the Children's Commissioner if they need advice or support.</p> <p>The registered manager has left and a new interim manager is in post. The interim manager has applied to Ofsted to become the registered manager for the home. There are staff vacancies at the home but these vacancies are covered either by existing staff or by bank staff. Consequently, young people have consistent care and are looked after by adults who know them well.</p> <p>Young people continue to make progress in all areas of their lives as a result of the care and support of staff at the home. They continue to be involved in a range of activities in the home, after school and in the community. Young people enjoy their leisure time and their quality of life is improved as staff prioritise participation and fun.</p> <p>Young people continue to make progress in other aspects of their development. For example, all young people learn age appropriate self-care and independence</p>	

skills, including cooking, baking and keeping their rooms clean and tidy. This assists their development towards young adulthood.

Young people continue to be involved in weekly meetings with staff where they contribute to various aspects of the home's running, for example choosing activities and menu planning. Young people feel an important part of home life and valued as they know that adults listen and take account of their views. Discussions about safety issues, for example stranger dangers, enhances young people's understanding of these issues. Young people say that they enjoy making collages following these discussions. This reinforces their understanding of these issues, and their art work is displayed and appreciated by young people, staff and visitors.

Partnership working with other agencies remains good. The manager and staff work well with other agencies to ensure young people remain safe. Joint working with schools, social workers, health and other agencies means that information is swiftly shared if concerns arise. A social worker commented, 'the manager and staff let me know if things have changed, and update me regularly'.

Sanctions and incidents of restraint, when used, are accurately recorded. The manager monitors all incidents to see what can be learned from them, for young people's benefit. One shortfall relates to staff not updating risk assessments where changes in young people's behaviour are observed. This does not give young people the opportunity to learn from consistent staff input affording the opportunity for positive change.

Young people make good progress with education. Attendance and punctuality at school remains very good. Young people are helped with homework by staff and they have a positive and motivated attitude towards learning.

The manager has efficient systems in place to monitor the running of the home. She welcomes the scrutiny of the independent visitor and is committed to continually improving the service for the benefit of young people.

Information about this children's home

This children's home is registered to provide care and accommodation for up to three young people with emotional and behavioural difficulties. The home is privately owned.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
30/07/2015	CH - Full	Good
24/03/2015	CH - Interim	Improved effectiveness
29/09/2014	CH - Full	Good
30/01/2014	CH - Interim	Inadequate 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
<p>12: The protection of children standard</p> <p>In order to meet the protection of children standard, and with particular reference to the gate stored in the garden the registered person must ensure –</p> <p>(2)(d) that the premises used for the purposes of the home are designed, furnished and maintained so as to protect each child from avoidable hazard's to the child's health.</p>	26/02/2016

Recommendations

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

- Ensure all children's case records are kept up to date (The Guide to the Quality Standards page 62 paragraph 14.3).

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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