

Children's homes - interim inspection

Inspection date	10/02/2016
Unique reference number	SC031220
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home
Registered manager	Vacant
Inspector	Pauline Yates

Inspection date	10/02/2016
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 at the home continue to make good progress from their starting points across many areas of their lives. The high quality care, and attention to their emotional needs ensures that any emerging difficulties are quickly identified and addressed. This ensures that any setbacks they experience do not become engrained stumbling blocks to their overall achievements.</p> <p>Young people make progress in education and for those whose attendance has been historically problematic, their attendance over time increases. Alongside this, they also improve their academic performance in key areas such as maths and english studies. One social worker commented, 'School attendance has gone from really low to almost perfect.'</p> <p>Staff offer effective and attentive care that ensures young people learn how to manage their emotions of disappointment and anger in acceptable ways. Staff are consistent and patient, and over time young people develop the ability to talk about what is difficult in their lives. As a result, outbursts resulting in physical intervention significantly reduce and they learn to seek out the advice they need. One social worker commented, 'He was incredibly violent and institutionalised when he first arrived. He has not been restrained since November and this is a huge improvement for him. Staff are very committed and have put up with a lot of violence in the past. Now we are reaping the rewards of that.'</p> <p>Physical intervention is only used when all other means of de-escalation have been exhausted. These incidences are carefully recorded in detail, and offer good insight into the precipitating factors leading up to the incident. However, where the manager has been actively involved in the intervention, another person who is authorised to do so, has not spoken to the manager about the measure, nor signed to say that it is accurate or spoken to the young person. As such, this is a breach of the regulation.</p> <p>The staff and manager liaise well with other agencies and share information in a timely and focused manner. They attend all relevant meetings and are proactive in</p>	

ensuring that young people's care plans progress. One social worker commented, 'X has done amazingly well and is now fosterable. They are mapping the transition of him into foster care.'

All young people benefit from the therapeutic input that the home offers and young people develop trusting relationships with staff. For some young people new to the home, there is a noticeable change in their willingness to engage and begin to take responsibility for their actions. One social worker commented, 'He seems to have moved on from where he was in his mind-set. He didn't engage with therapy or acknowledge things, but now he can write things down.'

A high level of planning takes place prior to young people joining the home. On the whole, this has ensured that young people are appropriately placed and do not experience unnecessary disruption due to placement breakdown. On the one occasion breakdown has occurred, the move has been necessary in order to ensure the safety of other young people. Following this, the manager was quick to identify shortfalls in the preparatory process, and has taken steps to prevent this occurring again.

Young people's safety is important to the staff and missing from home incidents are very low. Staff are active in following young people and maintaining a dialogue to persuade them to return. Missing from home protocols are followed if young people are lost sight of and appropriate agencies informed. In the main, young people are only missing for very short periods and often as a response to events outside the home, such as family issues.

Complaints are rare and the one complaint made has been responded to appropriately by the manager. Notifications have been made promptly and appropriately.

The manager is newly appointed and is in the process of making an application for registration. Prior to appointment, she was working at another of the company's homes. She is therefore conversant and knowledgeable of the particular ethos and approach taken to the care of young people at the home. She has good systems in place to monitor the quality of care provided and the requirements and recommendations made at the previous inspection have been met. As a result, the progress young people make is tracked more efficiently, their educational progress clearer to identify and contact plans now carefully mirror local authority permissions.

In addition, the staff compliment is more stable and the one member of staff that left the home has done so due to promotion. This resulted in one young person exhibiting a sense of loss. This was appropriately responded to and measures put in place to ensure the young person's relationship was not abruptly severed. Young people however, could be better prepared in advance of changes in staff through utilising the therapeutic processes that are currently in place.

Information about this children's home

This home is privately owned and provides care and accommodation for up to five young males. It is registered to provide care and accommodation for young people with emotional and behavioural difficulties.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
10/11/2015	Full	Good
04/02/2015	Interim	Improved effectiveness
18/11/2014	Full	Good
20/02/2014	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
Within 48 hours of the use of the measure, the registered person, or a person who is authorised by the registered person to do so ("the authorised person") has spoken to the user about the measure; and has signed the record to confirm it is accurate; and within 5 days of the use of the measure, the registered person or the authorised person adds to the record that they have spoken to the child about the measure. (Regulation 35 (b)(i)(ii)(c))	29/02/2016

Recommendations

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

- The registered person should respond to children's views about changes to staff and be aware of the potential impact this may have for the child's stability and emotional well-being. (The Guide to the Quality Standards, page 39 paragraph 8.12) In particular, that children should be appropriately prepared for changes in staff, prior to those changes taking place.

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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