

SC462809

Registered provider: ERA Care Limited 5921904

Interim inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This privately owned children's home is one of a small group run by the organisation. It provides care and support for up to three children who have emotional and/or behavioural difficulties.

Inspection date: 13 November 2017

Judgement at last inspection: not judged

Date of last inspection: 28 February 2017

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

This home was judged requires improvement at the last full inspection. At this interim inspection, the home was 'not judged'.

The home does not have a manager. The provider's intention is that one of the directors from the company who is an experienced manager will apply to Ofsted to register as manager for this home at the beginning of 2018.

This home has been closed since September 2016. The registered provider has indicated that the home will not be operational until February 2018. Should the home decide to accept placements, it is required to inform Ofsted of its intention before it does so.

The regulations and quality standards raised at the home's last full inspection in September 2016 have not been tested and so these will be reviewed with the provider at the next inspection.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
28/02/2017	Interim	Not judged
12/09/2016	Full	Requires improvement
08/03/2016	Full	Requires improvement
17/08/2015	Interim	Sustained effectiveness

What does the children's home need to do to improve?

Statutory requirements

This section sets out the actions that the registered person(s) must take to meet 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 within the given timescales.

Requirement	Due date
The protection of children standard is that children are protected from harm and enabled to keep themselves safe. (Regulation 12)	16/02/2018
<p>The leadership and management standard is that the registered person enables, inspires and leads a culture in relation to the children's home that helps children to aspire to their full potential and promotes their welfare.</p> <p>In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure that staff have the experience, qualifications and skills to meet the needs of each child and understand the impact that the quality of care provided in the home is having on the progress and experiences of each child and use this understanding to inform the development of the quality of care provided in the home. (Regulation 13(1)(a)(b)(2)(c)(f))</p>	16/02/2018

Recommendations

- Ensure that placements are only accepted for children where the registered person are satisfied that the home can respond effectively to the child's assessed needs as recorded in the child's relevant plans. ('Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards', page 56, paragraph 11.4)
- Ensure that beyond local authorities, other agencies, specifically the police, receive information about children referred to and leaving the home. ('Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards', page 12, paragraph 2.7)
- Ensure that staff seek to meet the child's basic needs in the way that a good parent would, recognising that many children in residential care have experienced environments where these needs have not been consistently met. ('Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards', page 15, paragraph 3.7) This is with specific reference to bedding, removing sharp implements from bedrooms and painting woodwork in bedrooms.
- Ensure that the review of the home's location is robust in the identification of any risks and strategies for managing these. ('Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards', page 64, paragraph 15.1)
- Ensure that, just as in a family home, children are able to access all shared areas of their home unless there are specific reasons why this would not meet a child's needs. Limits on privacy and access may only be put in place to safeguard each child in the home. ('Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards', page 15, paragraph 3.10) This is with specific reference to the routine locking of the kitchen from 11pm to 8am.

Information about this inspection

Inspectors have looked closely at the experiences and progress of children and young people. Inspectors considered the quality of work and the differences made to the lives of children and young people. They watched how professional staff work with children and young people and each other and discussed the effectiveness of help and care provided. Wherever possible, they talked to children and 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 whom 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.

Using the 'Social care common inspection framework', this inspection was carried out under the Care Standards Act 2000 to assess the effectiveness of the service, how it meets the core functions of the service as set out in legislation, 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'.

Children's home details

Unique reference number: SC462809

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: ERA Care Limited 5921904

Registered provider address: Unit G22 Allen House, Station Road, Sawbridgeworth, Hertfordshire CM21 9JX

Responsible individual: Stephen Milton

Registered manager: Post vacant

Inspector

Rosie Davie, social care inspector

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