

1259547

Registered provider: Semi-Independent House Limited

Interim inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home is run by an independent provider and is registered to provide care for up to three children and young people. The home provides care for children and young people who have behavioural, emotional and social difficulties.

Inspection date: 27 February 2019

Judgement at last inspection: good

Date of last inspection: 3 September 2018

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 good at the last full inspection. At the interim inspection, Ofsted judges that it has declined in effectiveness.

Since the last inspection, the service provided for young people has deteriorated in some areas. A concern running through this interim inspection is that staff do not fully understand their roles and responsibilities. This has a far-reaching impact on the quality of care provided. The new manager is enthusiastic. He has identified areas of weakness and has initiated numerous changes to strengthen how the home is run. However, more time is needed to see the impact of these changes.

Staff do not always work in accordance with agreed care plans and there are inconsistencies in approach. For example, updates to plans which have been discussed and agreed within the team are not written up as revised plans. Another example of inconsistency is the way in which staff use sanctions. As a result of this inconsistency, behaviour management strategies are weakened, and young people are not confident about the approach staff may take.

Staff do not always follow the home's written procedures and good-practice models. For example, staff have used the police to support them to manage behaviour. This highlights that staff are not confident in their own ability to manage behaviours. Additionally, staff failed to ensure that a young person was seen by a health professional after he received a head injury.

Boundary-setting is not consistent and is often ineffective. One young person has adopted an entrenched pattern of spending much of the day in his bedroom, opting not to engage in education and with his care plan. Staff are advocating for a new education resource to be agreed with external agencies. However, in the interim period they are failing to promote his welfare by not engaging him in purposeful and beneficial activities.

Regardless of these shortfalls, some young people have made progress. A parent attributed the quality of care provided for her son to his successful reintegration into the family home. A young person's positive school attendance has continued, supported by staff, despite the young person experiencing instability during the admission period.

The registered manager knows the young people well and understands their differing needs. The team has worked hard with a young person who is difficult to engage. This young person is spending increasing periods of time away from the home. The team is working closely with external agencies to track the young person's whereabouts and encourage his return to the home.

Requirements and recommendations set at the time of the last inspection have been responded to. The actions taken have improved the quality of care for young people. Improvements include the following:

- an updated guide for children and young people;
- updated compatibility risk assessments;
- the home's register now holds the information required by regulation;
- duty rosters have been improved and now show the hours worked by staff;
- checks have been strengthened to ensure that agency staff have undertaken core training;
- improved management arrangements.

The home's new registered manager is appropriately qualified and experienced.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
03/09/2018	Full	Good

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 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 aspire to fulfil their potential and promotes their welfare 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. (Regulation 13(1)(a)(b)(2)(c))	05/04/2019

Recommendation

- The registered person is responsible for ensuring that all staff consistently follow the home's policies and procedures for the benefit of the children in the home's care. ('Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards', page 54, paragraph 10.20)

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: 1259547

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Semi-Independent House Limited

Registered provider address: 51 Ploverly, Peterborough PE4 6HZ

Responsible individual: Collins Usada

Registered manager: Damian Carr

Inspector:

Mary Timms, social care inspector

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