

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC000802
Inspector	Nicholas Murphy
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Registered manager	Scott Stainsby
Date of last inspection	08/05/2014

Inspection date	22/12/2014
Previous inspection	adequate
Enforcement action since last inspection	there has been no compliance action since the last inspection

This inspection

This home was judged adequate at the last full inspection. At this interim inspection Ofsted judge that it has **sustained effectiveness**.

Young people are making good progress. They have good school attendance, some making significant improvements compared to their starting point prior to admission. In a looked after review, a teacher remarked, 'The school is overwhelmed by the young person's sudden improvement in attendance.' Young people who have left the home since the last inspection have done so in a planned way, and are all doing well in their new placements. Staff are continuing to work with one of these young people on an outreach basis. This is proving supportive in helping them move towards fully independent living. Young people are in good health, continuing to attend appointments to maintain their well-being.

The home is good at keeping young people safe. One young person commented, 'I feel safe and cared for here.' There are very few incidents of young people going missing, and then only for short periods of time. Although there have been some incidents of challenging behaviour, staff deal with these well. Following a statutory requirement made at the last inspection, the home has adopted a new behaviour management approach with training for all staff. This has refined their skills in supporting and calming young people who are distressed or angry. There are very few restraints, and the occasional incidents of destructive behaviour by young people are managed in-house rather than by involving police. Some young people have had difficulty in the past in accepting restrictions on what they are allowed to do. However, they are beginning to respond to the reasonable boundaries within the home and the frequency of behavioural outbursts is reducing.

Staff enable and encourage young people to voice their opinions and make informed choices. Young people are able to decide which member of staff they would like to be their key worker. Regular key worker sessions give young people the opportunity to discuss their plans and share any concerns they may have. There is also a system

of formal consultation where young people can express their views about the home and what they might want to change. However, written placement plans do not demonstrate that young people know what they contain or what objectives they are meant to achieve. Also, suggestions that young people make in formal consultation are sometimes not followed up by management or decisions fed back. This reduces the influence that young people are able to have over their day to day lives and the plans for their future.

The Registered Manager has addressed all the statutory requirements and recommendations made at the last inspection. As a result, there are improvements to the safety and hygiene of the building; there is a system in place to notify the local authority of admissions and discharges; the Registered Manager's monitoring reports are sent to Ofsted for scrutiny; the information given to young people on admission is more complete; and staff have received training which enables them to promote the welfare and safety of young people more effectively. However, some aspects of monitoring within the home are wanting. For example, audits of some young people's case files have failed to identify documents which need to be reviewed. And, the Registered Manager has not kept abreast of good practice guidance, such as recent advice from Ofsted on e-safety policies.

Information about this children's home

The home accommodates up to four young people who may have emotional and/or behavioural difficulties. It is operated by a private company.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
08/05/2014	Full	adequate
27/08/2013	Interim	inadequate progress
30/04/2013	Full	adequate
09/10/2012	Interim	satisfactory progress

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

Recommendations

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

- ensure that children's views, wishes and feelings are acted upon, in the day to day running of the home and important decisions and changes in the child's life, unless this is contrary to their interests (NMS 1.1)
- monitor, in line with regulations, all records kept by the home to ensure compliance with the home's policies, to identify any concerns about specific incidents and to identify patterns and trends. Immediate action is taken to address any issues raised by this monitoring (NMS 21.2)
- help children to understand how to keep themselves safe including outside the home and when using the internet or social media, specifically to develop an e-safety policy which conforms to current good practice guidance. (NMS 4.4)

What inspection judgements mean

At the interim inspections 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

The purpose of this inspection is to assure children and young people, parents, the public, local authorities and government of the quality and standard of the service provided. The 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 relevant regulations and meets the national minimum standards.

The report details the main strengths, any areas for improvement, including any breaches of regulation, and any failure to meet national minimum standards. The judgements included in the report are made against the framework of inspection for children's homes.