

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC004085
Inspector	David Kidner
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Registered manager	Amiee Louise Barnett
Date of last inspection	06/08/2014

Inspection date	23/02/2015
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Previous inspection	good
Enforcement action since last inspection	none

This inspection

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

The home has improved its effectiveness since the last inspection as leaders and managers have addressed the one requirement and one of the three recommendations. However, the other two recommendations have been met in part, but further improvement is required. The shortfalls identified at this inspection do not have a negative impact of the safety and wellbeing of children and young people.

Leaders and managers now ensure that an updated statement of purpose is sent to Her Majesty's Chief Inspector and that the results of all statutory reviews and reviews of placement plans are recorded on young people's files.

There has been some remedial work in the home's environment, but some areas such as doorways and hallways would benefit from re-decorating. However, there is a long term plan to fully refurbish and decorate the home and this is included in the home's development plan. In addition, some staff information has not been removed from communal areas; this detracts from promoting a homely environment. This recommendation has been re-instated.

The home has made several attempts to liaise with the local police to ensure that the home's missing from home protocol and procedures are compatible with the local police. This has been unsuccessful. However, on the day of the inspection the police made contact with the home to arrange a visit to review and agree protocols and procedures. This recommendation has been re-instated. However, there have not been any young people missing from the home.

Restraint is rarely used and is only used as a last resort. However, the record used to record restraint does not always include the duration of the restraint and children and staff views on the incident of restraint.

Since the last inspection the Registered Manager and staff have worked hard to improve the services that are provided at the home. Staff speak very highly of the Registered Manager. One member of staff said 'she is brilliant; she knows the children's needs really well'. The Registered Manager is committed to improving the services that are provided.

The home continues to provide good quality care and support. Placement plans and risk assessments are comprehensive and are regularly reviewed to ensure they reflect young people's individual needs. Since the last inspection leaders and managers have reviewed the content and presentation of the placement plans. They are very well organised and easily accessible and contain the required information. One member of staff said 'placement plans are more informative, there are good behaviour support plans and sensory plans that we adopt from school, and this promotes continuity and consistency'.

Leaders and managers continue to work in partnership with parents and social workers to ensure that the agreed plan of care is delivered and all persons are kept informed of the care and support provided. One parent said 'I don't think we could be happier, communication is fantastic and my child is very happy there'. Parents can identify good outcomes for their child. One parent said 'his confidence has improved and he is getting out and about more, he goes to places that we could not take him'.

Staff are extremely knowledgeable about the individual needs of young people and put them at the centre of their practice. They promote young people's privacy and dignity. Young people are very comfortable with the staff and are relaxed and happy in their presence. Young people are encouraged to make choices and to have a voice.

Staff are able to identify positive outcomes for young people since the last inspection. One member of staff said 'one young person is now using a spoon to eat, another young person's communication has improved, and another young person does not require continence aids'. Another member of staff said 'we have worked hard with school and families to promote continuity and consistency of care and we now offer a wider choice of activities outside of the home environment. Recent activities include ice skating, rock climbing and visits to the theatre'.

Leaders and managers ensure that there is a smooth transition when young people access the home. There is a robust admission policy. One parent said 'we visited the home before our child was admitted; I have no concerns about the quality of care for my child'.

Leaders and managers continue to ensure that there is a comprehensive recruitment process. However, it is noted that the reference forms do not always include reference to the suitability for the applicant to work with children. This was

highlighted at the time of the inspection to the organisation's human resource team.

There have not been any complaints since the last inspection. Young people's safety is promoted. Staff have a good awareness of safeguarding procedures and protocols and parents and staff consider that children and young people are safe. Bullying is not an issue at the home and incidents and accidents, in and out of the home, have declined in recent months.

The Registered Manager ensures that there is regular internal and external monitoring of the care provided in the home and has a very good understanding of the home's strengths and areas for improvement.

Information about this children's home

The home is a short break residential home for children and young people with severe physical and/or learning disabilities. It is run by an independent not-for-profit organisation working to meet the needs of children with physical and learning disabilities. It is registered to provide care for up to seven children or young people at any one time. Day care is also provided.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
06/08/2014	Full	good
04/02/2014	Interim	inadequate progress
31/05/2013	Full	good
04/02/2013	Interim	good progress

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

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 Regulations 2001 and the National Minimum Standards. The registered person(s) must comply with the given timescales.

Reg.	Requirement	Due date
17B (2001)	ensure that where a measure of restraint is used on a child the record must include the duration of the measure of restraint (Regulation 17B (4) (a))	31/03/2015

Recommendations

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

- ensure that all children and staff are given an opportunity to discuss incidents of restraint they have been involved in, witnessed or been affected by, with a relevant adult (NMS 3.17)

- ensure that if a child is absent from the home and their whereabouts is not known (i.e. the child is missing), the home's procedures are compatible with and have regards to Runaway and Missing from Home and Care protocols and procedures maintained and managed by the police or by the local authority for the area where the home is located (NMS 5.6)
- ensure that the home provides a comfortable and homely environment and is well maintained and decorated (NMS 10.3)
- ensure the home has record of the recruitment and vetting checks which includes a statement from each referee as to their opinion of the person's suitability to work with children (NMS 16)

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.