

Children's homes – Interim inspection

Inspection date	31/01/2017
Unique reference number	SC005067
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home
Registered provider	Esland North Limited
Registered provider address	1 Foundry Lane, Milford, Belper DE56 0RN

Responsible individual	Lyndsey Sim
Registered manager	Cheryl Wells
Inspector	Dave Carrigan

Inspection date	31/01/2017
Previous inspection judgement	Good
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 full inspection. At this interim inspection Ofsted judges that it has sustained effectiveness. Since the last inspection, there has been a number of admissions and discharges. Two young people have moved successfully into semi-independent accommodation, another young person has moved to a foster placement and three further young people have moved on to a more appropriate placements to meet their needs. At the time of this inspection, two young people were living in the home. Young people continue to make good progress. Young people engage with staff and form trusting relationships. This assists them to make positive steps forward. One young person is engaging well with his educational placement. The other young person is living in the smaller home situated close by. This helps him to develop his semi-independence by equipping him with the necessary life skills that mean he is better prepared for adulthood. Young people's safety is promoted because staff understand how to keep young people safe. The staff are well trained and understand the policies and procedures in relation to safeguarding. Staff work with young people individually to address any vulnerabilities and risks. One young person told the inspector, 'Of course I am safe, there's no reason not to be. The staff are always around and will help you if you need anything.' Young people continue to be in good health. They are registered with primary health care and specialist providers. This ensures that they can access services and receive treatment without undue delays. Arrangements for the administration and recording medication are effective. However, the storage of medication is not secure and if accessed by young people may pose a risk to them. Some young people's behaviour has at times been extremely challenging with damage to the home being caused. Because of this, there has been an increase in the use of physical intervention since the last inspection. Recording of physical intervention is detailed with evidence that reflective practice is used with both staff and young people. This helps identify patterns and trends to inform future practice, and reduce incidents.	

The home has taken appropriate action when young people are missing from care, in line with policies and procedures agreed with the local police. Strategy meetings take place when necessary to consider how young people are best protected. The local police missing-from-care coordinator visits the home to speak to young people on their return. This helps to consider any information that may help to protect them from going missing again.

The manager continues to work closely with placing authorities to promote contact that is positive and safe. This ensures that young people continue to build relationships and attachments with those significant to them.

The manager ensures that young people continue to be protected by the organisation's robust recruitment practices. Health and safety matters are managed effectively, to promote the safety and well-being of young people. Some unrepaired damage to the home requires attention. This includes damage to a wall, damage to a door and the need to replace some furniture in a young person's bedroom.

The home continues to be managed by a suitably qualified manager who has been in post since March 2016. Staff are effectively supervised to ensure that they are supported in fulfilling their roles. All staff complete a range of mandatory training and refresher courses, new staff complete an induction and progress toward completing the required qualification. This ensures that staff keep their skills and knowledge up to date and are competent in looking after young people.

In response to the requirement and recommendation made at the last inspection, the children's guide has been updated and is now current, and sanctions now link into key-work sessions, allowing young people to reflect on their behaviour.

Information about this children's home

The home is part of a private organisation providing up to six placements for young people who have emotional and behavioural difficulties.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
17/05/2016	Full	Good
16/02/2016	Interim	Improved effectiveness
28/07/2015	Full	Requires improvement
18/02/2015	Full	Good

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 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 must comply with the given timescales.

Requirement	Due date
6: The quality and purpose of care standard In order to meet the quality and purpose of care standard the registered person must ensure— (c) that the premises used for the purposes of the home are designed and furnished so as to; (i) meet the needs of each child.	15/02/2017
The registered person must make arrangements for the handling, recording, safekeeping, safe administration and disposal of medicines received into the children's home. In particular the registered person must ensure that— medicines kept in the home are stored in a secure place so as to prevent any child from having unsupervised access to them. (Regulation 23 (1)(2)(a))	15/02/2017

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 that 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 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.

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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