

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC008271
Inspector	Phillip Morris
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Registered person	Care Today (Children's Services) Ltd
Registered person address	Care Today Children's Services, Lansdowne House 85 Buxton Road STOCKPORT Cheshire SK2 6LR
Responsible individual	Vivien Anne Snape
Registered manager	POST VACANT
Date of last inspection	07/11/2014

Inspection date	12/02/2015
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Previous inspection	adequate
Enforcement action since last inspection	none

This inspection

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

Since the last full inspection the Registered Manager has left. A new manager has now been appointed and is in the process of registering with Ofsted. The manager has ensured a prompt response to the requirements and recommendations raised at the last inspection. The Statement of Purpose has been reviewed in line with regulations. The home has an improved recording system for the use of sanctions, restraint and discipline. The recording of supervision is improved with detailed date and time. Newly appointed staff members receive additional support and training to equip them to provide care to young people.

The staff are appropriately qualified, skilled and experienced to provide a service of good quality. All staff members receive continuous training in safeguarding and managing behaviour. As a result, young people are better protected and benefit from good quality care.

Recruitment of staff has improved with an active recruitment campaign taking place. The vetting of staff is robust to minimise the possibility of young people being harmed by those in positions of trust.

The home is failing to ensure the physical building is maintained to an acceptable standard. This is impacting on the safety of the building and ensuring young people have a comfortable interior in which to live. For example, the bathroom is of poor standard and places young people's health at risk.

There is a lack of a robust quality assurance process. The home provides monthly reports on the conduct of the home. These reports are not being updated with accurate information. This hampers Ofsted being well informed on the levels of self-evaluation taking place and changes in the provision.

Since the last inspection a young person has been admitted to the home. This admission was planned. The young person moved to the home following several weeks of introductions. A planning meeting took place to enable services to plan for meeting the young person's needs.

Young people improve their knowledge and understanding of their family backgrounds through support of staff. Regular contact between young people and family members is promoted and encouraged. The manager and staff keep in regular communication with family members. This is valued by families. One parent said, 'I am very pleased with the placement and they seem supportive'.

Young people are supported by plans overseen by the manager and staff. These plans are developed from information received from the local authority and previous placements. The home continues to advance plans through good coordination with local agencies. This has meant young people's attainment and progress remains on target to achieve good outcomes.

Young people are safeguarded. The manager and staff have a good understanding of how to safeguard young people with policies and procedures in place. There has been one occasion of physical intervention required. This was undertaken in the appropriate circumstances, recorded accurately and discussed with the young person.

Information about this children's home

The home provides care for up to two young people with emotional and behavioural difficulties. A private company owns and operates the setting.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
07/11/2014	Full	adequate
10/03/2014	Interim	satisfactory progress
05/11/2013	Full	good
12/02/2013	Interim	satisfactory 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
31 (2001)	ensure that all parts of the children's home used by children are of sound construction and kept in good structural repair externally and internally. (Regulation 31 (2d))	27/03/2015

Recommendations

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

- ensure the manager regularly monitors, 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)

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.