

Children's homes - interim inspection

Inspection date	09/02/2016
Unique reference number	SC008273
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home
Registered person	Searchlight Care Services Limited
Registered person address	Marcus House, Parkhall Road, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, ST3 5XA

Responsible individual	Denver Underwood
Registered manager	Marianne Roberts
Inspector	Pete Hylton

Inspection date	09/02/2016
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 judge that it has improved effectiveness. This home was last inspected in November 2015 and was judged to be good. One recommendation, relating to planning key working sessions was made at that time. This recommendation has been fully met. Young people now benefit from a more structured and planned approach to their individual discussions with staff. As a result, there is now a clearer link to young people's placement plans. This ensures that young people are completing agreed actions and their progress is recorded and regularly reviewed. Furthermore, since the last inspection, there has been marked improvements to young people's outcomes and experiences in all areas of their lives. Since the last inspection, young people are now travelling to school with higher levels of autonomy. Previously, staff transported young people to school and stayed at school to support them. Young people are now able to travel independently to school. This means that young people are able to meet with friends on the way and further develop their friendships and attachments. Young people continue to make very good progress at school; they achieve 100% attendance and are working to expected academic levels. Comments from teachers include, 'we are very pleased with the young person's progress' and 'we feel part of the team looking after the young person.' Excellent partnership working underpins the progress that young people continue to make. There have been significant improvements to young people's independence. In addition to continuing regular access to local clubs, for example cadets, young people now enjoy increasing amounts of free time with their peers. This ensures that young people develop a strong sense of belonging to peer groups and develop their emotional resilience. As a result, young people develop their social awareness and confidence. This is also reflected in young people's friends being regular visitors to the home. Young people are proud to have their friends visit the home and this adds to a warm and family environment. Since the last inspection, young people have developed further life skills. For example, young people now shop independently for meal ingredients, clothing and	

personal necessities. Young people are also actively involved in the preparation of meals and they take pride in preparing meals for staff. The staff team ensure that young people are encouraged to explore their career options. As a result, young people are developing a realistic awareness of potential post 16 options and pathways.

There have been no serious incidents or restraints in the home. Staff are aware of their responsibilities should this change and all staff are up to date with their safeguarding training. Similarly, there have been no occasions of young people going missing from the home. The staff are vigilant and responsive to the needs of the young people. Risk assessment is appropriate and regularly reviewed. This ensures that young people are enabled to take appropriate risks in line with their vulnerability, age and understanding. Young people are safe at the home as a result.

Young people's health has improved since the last inspection. The staff team have ensured that appropriate medical services have been offered for young people and any health needs that require support. For example, where young people experience health issues, the staff team ensure that appointments are made and attended. This in turn has resulted in appropriate treatment being offered and subsequent improvements to young people's health. Furthermore, where young people require access to more specialist health provision, this has been sourced, agreed and put into place. Young people are, as a result of the attentive staff team, provided with the services that they require.

The leadership and management of the home remains strong. Since the last inspection, the deputy manager has taken on additional responsibility in managing the home. The registered manager retains a close oversight at all times and ensures that all appropriate actions are taken. One new member of staff has started and extensive work has been completed with young people to ensure a smooth integration that minimises disruption to routines and familiarity. Oversight is good and the management team are skilled in identifying areas to improve. Young people benefit from living in a home where the staff provide effective care in a supporting and nurturing environment.

Information about this children's home

This home is owned and operated by a private organisation. The home is registered to provide care for two young people with emotional or behavioural difficulties. However, the home only provides care for one young person at any one time, unless the two children are siblings and it is considered appropriate for them to share a bedroom.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
17/11/2015	CH - Full	Good
26/03/2015	CH - Interim	Improved effectiveness
03/12/2014	CH - Full	Good
17/02/2014	CH - Interim	Satisfactory progress

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 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 who 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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