

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC008273
Inspector	Matthew Hedges
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 Alex Underwood
Registered manager	Marianne Roberts
Date of last inspection	03/12/2014

Inspection date	26/03/2015
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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**.

Young people continue to make significant progress. Education attendance has improved since the last inspection with young people now accessing full time timetables. The support they require from staff has reduced as they grow in confidence and take greater responsibility for their own behaviour. This has helped their attainment to improve. Education staff talk positively about young people's attendance, attitude, behaviour and their growing ability to make friends. Professionals from the youth offending service also comment positively about the progress young people make.

Young people do not go missing from the home. They rarely engage in risk taking behaviour and there is no use of physical intervention. Positive behaviour is promoted and rewarded. Young people are involved in deciding what a fair consequence would be. This approach has utilised learning opportunities for both staff and young people. As a result, young people's behaviour continues to improve. Records of consequences do not always record young people's views. This reduces the evidence of their involvement. A recommendation has been made in relation to this.

The home's complaints procedure is mainly robust. However, it does lack clarity in one area. This relates to the role and responsibilities of Ofsted in relation to complaints made by young people.

Managers utilise a range of robust monitoring tools to evaluate young people's progress and the effectiveness of the home. These tools track key issues for young people. This ensures that support is targeted where it is most needed. This approach effectively supports improvement.

Partnership working with other professionals is strong. One professional highlighted,

'excellent communication' from the home. They went on to talk about 'great multi-agency working' through regular planning meetings. The home is instrumental in this. This approach ensures plans are continuously reviewed and young people receive consistent care.

Information about this children's home

This home is 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
03/12/2014	Full	good
17/02/2014	Interim	satisfactory progress
05/12/2013	Full	good
23/01/2013	Interim	good 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 where any sanctions, disciplinary measures or restraint are used, children are encouraged to have their views recorded in the records kept by the home (NMS 3.18)
- ensure that the registered person has provided the home with a written procedure for considering complaints and responding to representations and complaints in accordance with legal requirements and relevant guidance. (NMS 21.10)

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.