

Children's homes - interim inspection

Inspection date	19/02/2016
Unique reference number	SC008274
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	Philip Mann
Inspector	Pete Hylton

Inspection date	19/02/2016
Previous inspection judgement	Outstanding
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 Outstanding at the full inspection. At this interim inspection Ofsted judge that it has improved effectiveness.	
This home was last inspected in December 2015 and was judged to be outstanding. No requirements or recommendations were made. Since the last inspection, improvements have been made to the environment. For example, the bathroom has been redecorated and this has further enhanced the warm, homely feel. The house continues to be well presented with photographs of young people and awards proudly displayed. This further enhances the emotional attachment young people experience to the home. They are proud of their achievements and know that staff take great pride in recognising their excellent progress. Young people play an active part in the local and wider community. School attendance remains 100% and clear and measurable progress is being made. Young people are exploring their career options and developing an awareness of the work of work, as well as also exploring volunteering opportunities. For example, a young person has recently completed an induction to volunteer with a local charitable organisation. This is helping young people to develop their community responsibility and also enhancing their vocational skills in readiness for adulthood. This is further underpinned by effective independence preparatory work in the home. Staff ensure that young people are able to take responsibility for their own needs. Since the last inspection, there has been an emphasis on young people completing their own shopping, meal preparation and taking responsibility for arranging their own medical appointments. This has resulted in an increase to young people's readiness for moving on to future placements. As a result, young people are growing in confidence and are developing their resilience for adulthood. Young people are very happy and settled in the home. Relationships between staff and young people remain a key strength. It is evident that there is a strong and familial bond between adults and young people. The home is a nurturing environment where young people feel safe, respected, valued and listened too. A	

young person commented, in relation to the staff, 'they really look after me.' This is evident with the progress young people are making. The same staff remain in place since the last inspection and continue to provide a stable environment. Young people are thriving as a result.

There have been no serious incidents since the last inspection. Young people do not go missing from the home and restraint continues to be unused. Incidents of challenging behaviour are rare; where this occurs it is sensitively handled and quickly resolved. There are clear boundaries in the home with young people encouraged to develop their maturity and independence. Sanctions are occasionally used to promote positive behaviour. This results in a calm, settled and stable home with clear expectations for young people.

The leadership and management of the home continue to be highly effective. Regular monitoring of young people's progress underpins a home where the staff truly seek to support the best outcomes for young people. A social worker commented that 'the staff team are supportive and take an active role in implementing the care plan.' The views of young people are actively sought and play a pivotal role in developing the home. This is reinforced by placing authorities; a social worker commented that 'the young person considers this placement to be their home. This is credit to the environment and atmosphere that the staff provide for the young person'. The home's management ensures that clear action planning identifies areas to develop and clear targets are in place to achieve the desired outcomes. Regular visits to the home by the independent visitor ensure that the organisation receives impartial feedback about the services offered. Furthermore, young people share their views about the home to the visitor. This further drives a culture of continual improvement.

The home has continued to make demonstrable improvements to young people's outcomes.

Information about this children's home

This children's home is registered to provide care and accommodation for two young people with emotional and/or behavioural difficulties. The home is operated by a private company.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
01/12/2015	CH - Full	Outstanding
27/03/2015	CH - Interim	Sustained effectiveness
16/12/2014	CH - Full	Outstanding
05/03/2014	CH - Interim	Good 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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