

SC008274

Registered provider: Searchlight Care Services Ltd

Interim inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This children's home is run by a private organisation and offers care and accommodation for one young person who has experienced childhood instability leading to trauma and associated complex behaviours. The manager has been registered with Ofsted since August 2017.

Inspection date: 20 March 2019

Judgement at last inspection: requires improvement to be good

Date of last inspection: 15 January 2019

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 requires improvement to be good at the last full inspection. At the interim inspection, Ofsted judges that it has improved effectiveness.

Since the last inspection, one young person has left the home and a new young person has moved in. The young person who has recently moved on made good progress relative to his own individual circumstances. For example, the young person made some positive relationships with staff and engaged well with his work experience placement. The move away from the home was planned and the young person has moved to a placement that is more appropriate to meet his needs.

Staff managed the new young person's transition into the home well. They worked effectively with the young person, social worker and parents, who visited the home prior to the young person moving in. The young person's parent told the inspector, 'What I

first liked about it here was the way the staff were with her. They also made it feel like a home and are putting her needs first.’ Effective care planning helps reduce the young persons’ anxieties and contributes to her settling quickly into her new environment.

The healthcare needs of the young person are met well by staff. She is registered with the various local healthcare services and is supported to attend any appointments. Specialist training was undertaken with staff to enable them to meet the individual needs of the young person. This means that staff skills and knowledge are enhanced so that they can meet the medical needs of the young person in their care.

Staff form effective working relationships with a range of agencies and professionals involved in supporting the young person. For example, staff work closely with education providers to promote the young person’s attendance and attainment at school.

Staff understand the young person’s vulnerabilities and know what action to take to address them. This ensures that the young person benefits from effective support and protection.

The home continues to be managed by a suitably qualified manager. She has taken steps to improve the quality of care provided to young people. The manager has responded positively to the four requirements raised at the last inspection. Staff have received appropriate training and have had input to improve their knowledge of their roles and responsibilities to safeguard young people. The manager and staff have developed their practice around recording restraints, and management oversight of restraints has improved. In addition, the latest version of the home’s statement of purpose has been sent to Ofsted.

One new shortfall has been identified. An independent visitor visits the home once a month to monitor and report on the quality of care. However, the reports from these visits are received by HMCI three months after the initial visit. This does not ensure that the regulator has a good overview of the home between inspections.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
15/01/2019	Full	Requires improvement to be good
29/01/2018	Interim	Not judged
20/01/2017	Interim	Sustained effectiveness
12/07/2016	Full	Outstanding

What does the children's home need to do to improve?

Statutory requirements

This section sets out the actions that the registered person(s) must take to meet 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(s) must comply within the given timescales.

Requirement	Due date
The registered person must ensure that an independent person visits the children's home at least once each month. The independent person must provide a copy of the independent person's report to HMCI. (Regulation 44 (1)(7)(a)) In particular, ensure that reports are forwarded to Ofsted in a timely way.	17/04/2019

Information about this inspection

Inspectors have looked closely at the experiences and progress of children and young people. Inspectors considered the quality of work and the differences made to the lives of children and young people. They watched how professional staff work with children and young people and each other and discussed the effectiveness of help and care provided. Wherever possible, they talked to children and 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.

Using the 'Social care common inspection framework', this inspection was carried out under the Care Standards Act 2000 to assess the effectiveness of the service, how it meets the core functions of the service as set out in legislation, 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'.

Children's home details

Unique reference number: SC008274

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Searchlight Care Services Ltd

Registered provider address: Marcus House, Parkhall Road, Longton, Stoke on Trent ST3 5XA

Responsible individual: Paul Turner

Registered manager: Janice Jacques

Inspector

Dave Carrigan, social care inspector

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