

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC008274
Inspector	Matthew Hedges
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Telephone number	01782 594876
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	Philip Alan Mann
Date of last inspection	16/12/2014

Inspection date	27/03/2015
Previous inspection	outstanding
Enforcement action since last inspection	none

This inspection

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

Young people continue to make excellent progress in key areas of their life. A teacher commented that a young person had made, 'staggering progress, academic, socially and emotionally'. They went on to say that: 'they are a role model for other students'. As a result, young people's attainment improves. One young person is predicted to achieve some of the best grades in the school.

Incidents are extremely rare. Young people do not go missing from home and do not engage in other risk taking behaviour. There is no use of physical intervention. Young people have active social lives and engage in a range of positive activities. This increases their confidence and allows them to make friends. Young people talk positively about the care they receive. They have strong relationships with staff. One young person stated that staff are, 'like family'.

Managers are highly effective and have a good overview of the home. Monitoring arrangements are strong and the service improves as a result. Managers have high aspirations for young people, as do the staff team. This ensures young people achieve and develop belief in themselves.

Partnership working is strong. Education staff and Independent Reviewing Officers comment positively in this regard. A teacher stated that their relationship with the home was, 'excellent'.

No shortfalls were identified at the last inspection. One recommendation has been made at this inspection. There is a complaints procedure in the home. One area of this requires more clarity. Specifically this relates to Ofsted's role should a young person wish to complain. This has minimal impact on young people.

Information about this children's home

The home is one of five children's homes owned by a private company. It is registered to provide care for two young people with emotional or behavioural difficulties.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
16/12/2014	Full	outstanding
05/03/2014	Interim	good progress
28/11/2013	Full	outstanding
22/01/2013	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 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.