

SC008488

Registered provider: Halliwell Homes Limited

Interim inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This is a private children's home registered for up to eight children who may have emotional and/or behavioural difficulties. The home offers education on-site at a registered school.

There is a new manager in post who has submitted an application to register with Ofsted.

Inspection date: 5 December 2018

Judgement at last inspection: good

Date of last inspection: 12 June 2018

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 last full inspection.
At this interim inspection, Ofsted judges that it has sustained effectiveness.

Since the last inspection, the home has experienced some management changes. The organisation has now appointed a qualified and experienced manager, who has applied to register with Ofsted. An assistant manager has moved across from another of the organisation's homes to support the manager.

Managers provide strong and effective leadership, and staff report that they feel supported by the new management team. They have brought stability and consistency to the home. Since the last inspection, seven staff have left, with three more due to

leave. Staff report that they have been stretched during this difficult period; however, the provider has actively recruited a number of permanent staff.

Eight of the nine requirements made at the last inspection have been met. Staff continue to use bedroom door alarms as a strategy to safeguard children during the night. However, the use of such devices is now based upon the individual needs of children. This means that bedroom door alarms are only used when staff have assessed that they are needed to keep children safe.

Staff have mixed success in managing children's behaviours. Children who are new to the home have not yet been able to develop the skills to manage their emotions. As a result, physical interventions are sometimes needed to prevent children causing harm to themselves and others. The manager undertakes satisfactory evaluation of physical interventions. This means that measures of controls are adequately monitored and only used when appropriate to do so.

Staff are currently in the process of reviewing all risk assessments to ensure that a consistent risk management approach is in place. This is an improving picture, with staff putting a greater focus on the individual needs of children. Staff have put in place the necessary strategies and safeguards to manage children's known vulnerabilities.

Although in most cases staff record the administration of medication clearly, in one example, the administration of a controlled medicine was not recorded correctly. This did not result in any harm to the child involved. However, staff do not fully consider the potential risk of cross-contamination when handling medication during audit checks. For example, staff use their bare hands and inappropriate work surfaces to complete these audits. This practice is unhygienic and could potentially result in cross-contamination.

The statement of purpose has been updated and Ofsted has been informed of the changes. In addition, the six-monthly monitoring report has been completed and a copy has been sent to Ofsted. This means that Ofsted, as the regulator, maintains a good overview of the home between inspections.

A review of the training matrix identified that the core group of staff has completed all mandatory training. New staff are currently working through their probationary period and will commence the level 3 training upon completion of their probation.

Of the three recommendations that were made following the last inspection, two have been fully met. However, inspectors were unable to verify that staff are receiving supervision at the frequency stated in the home's statement of purpose. Therefore, this recommendation is repeated.

The current group of children is making steady progress. Two children who have been admitted to the home since the last inspection appear to be settling well. All children are in full-time education, with one child attending mainstream school since September 2018.

There has been one incident when three children went missing from the home together. Records show that staff followed agreed protocols and safeguarding plans to ensure that the children returned safely. An incident that has occurred since the last inspection was under investigation by the appropriate authorities at the time of this inspection. This means that records relating to this incident were not considered by inspectors as they were not available in the home. There are clear arrangements in place for safeguarding children in the event of any allegation or suspicion of abuse.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
12/06/2018	Full	Good
20/02/2018	Interim	Improved effectiveness
26/04/2017	Full	Good
22/02/2017	Interim	Sustained effectiveness
08/06/2016	Full	Requires improvement

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 make arrangements for the handling, recording, safekeeping, safe administration and disposal of medicines received into the children's home. (Regulation 23 (1))	30/01/2019

Recommendations

- The registered person must have systems in place so that all staff, including the manager, receive supervision of their practice from an appropriately qualified and experienced professional, which allows them to reflect on their practice and the needs of the children assigned to their care. ('Guide to the children's home regulations including the quality standards', page 61, paragraph 13.2)

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: SC008488

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Halliwell Homes Limited

Registered provider address: 1 Tape Street, Stoke-on-Trent ST10 1BB

Responsible individual: Karen Mitchell-Mellor

Registered manager: post vacant

Inspectors

Michelle Bacon: social care inspector

Paul Robinson: social care inspector

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