

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC008488
Inspector	Paul Scott
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Registered person	Halliwell Homes Limited
Registered person address	28 Sandown Road Haslingden ROSSENDALE Lancashire BB4 6PL
Responsible individual	Karen Mitchell-Mellor
Registered manager	POST VACANT / Jacqueline Diane Norbury
Date of last inspection	11/12/2014

Inspection date	17/02/2015
Previous inspection	adequate
Enforcement action since last inspection	There has been no enforcement action since the last inspection.

This inspection

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

The home has operated without a registered manager since 29 August 2014. Acting managers have been in place throughout this period. The current manager has been in post since 12 January 2015 and is in the process of registering with Ofsted. She has a wealth of childcare experience which will only serve to enhance the forward direction of this service.

Suitable action has been taken to address the three requirements and five out of the six recommendations from the previous inspection. A much more rigorous and transparent approach has been taken in response to managing safeguarding concerns and allegations against staff, including referral to external safeguarding agencies. Detailed records are now maintained and clearly evidence the action taken in response to concerns. The new manager has a good knowledge of law and practice and clearly understands and implements her responsibilities in relation to safeguarding children. Improved communication with Ofsted means that they are kept informed and up-to-date in the event of any significant event. Recording practices relating to restraint have been improved with the reformatting of the log designed for this purpose. Staff are now clear about what information should be recorded in this log and completed reports are scrutinised and signed off by the manager when they are complete. As a result, young people's welfare and safety are promoted and staff are better protected from challenge or allegation.

The system for recording complaints, of which there have been six since the last inspection, has been revised. Records are now made contemporaneously, are better organised and include sufficient detail to evidence what action has been taken and the outcome of the investigation. There is now a formal process for escalating concerns when information is requested and not provided by placing authorities. Staff have started varying the times of fire drills to ensure young people know how

to safely evacuate the building in the event of a fire during the evening and at weekends for example. Some progress has been made in providing young people with a secure place to store their personal possessions that they can access without asking staff. However, not all young people have been provided with this resource and therefore this recommendation is not met.

One young person has left the home since the last inspection. Managers and staff recognised that they could not meet the needs of this young person, who was overtly challenging in their behaviour. This closure of placement was sensitively managed in the best interest of the young person. Staff continued to support the young person in an alternative setting until a suitable placement was identified by the placing authority. The remaining young people continue to benefit from the care and support offered in this home. Their placements are stable with a number of them being in the process of preparing for the transition to foster placements. School attendance remains high for the majority of young people who engage in their education without objection. One young person is presenting a challenge in this area but staff are persistent in their efforts to get the young person to re-engage with school.

Information about this children's home

This is a private children's home registered to provide care and accommodation for up to eight young people who may be experiencing emotional and/or behavioural difficulties.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
11/12/2014	Full	adequate
31/10/2013	Interim	inadequate progress
30/04/2013	Full	good
13/11/2012	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 children views are listened to and are acted upon, specifically that all children are provided with a secure place to store their personal possession that they can access without asking staff. (NMS 1.1)

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.