

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC008600
Inspector	Ruth Loughridge
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Registered person	New Horizons (Stockport) Ltd
Registered person address	5 Bramhall Park Road, Bramhall STOCKPORT Cheshire SK7 3DQ
Responsible individual	Bharati Parikh
Registered manager	Maria Simmons
Date of last inspection	16/07/2014

Inspection date	09/02/2015
Previous inspection	adequate
Enforcement action since last inspection	none

This inspection

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

Young people report that staff help them to settle when they move into the home and that they settle quickly. Even after only short periods in this placement, young people can identify improvements that they make. One young person said that before he came to the home he did not attend school and had a poor routine. This young person was pleased to tell the inspector that he now attends school and he participates in a number of positive activities.

Young people are well supported through planned moves from the home. The social worker for a young person who recently left the home stated, 'The home and the new setting liaised with one another before the move – staff visited the new setting with him. The home provided good information about his independence skills and their risk assessments. They helped him to purchase the things he need for his flat. We all worked together to get the best for him.'

The last inspection of the home identified that a young person was admitted to the home, whose needs could not be met there. The Registered Manager has now made effective improvements to the admissions process. For example, the young people now placed at the home engage in less risk taking behaviour, and incidents of young people going missing from the home have substantially reduced. The Registered Manager's consultation with external agencies such as schools, demonstrates that they continue to work well with other professionals to improve outcomes for young people. The independent visitor to the home is suitably independent and monthly visits are routinely conducted. Reports by the independent visitor do not show that consultation with relatives takes place. This reduces the effectiveness of the monitoring visits.

Since the last inspection some staff have undertaken training in the dangers of 'legal highs'. This means that they will be better equipped to support and advise young

people around this issue.

A previous recommendation in relation to record keeping has not been met and has been repeated. Although improvements were noted, some records lacked detail. As staff annual appraisals have not yet taken place a recommendation in relation to the inclusion of young people's views in staff annual appraisals cannot yet be assessed. All other requirements and recommendations of the previous inspection have been met. One recommendation has been made as a result of this inspection. This is in relation to the need to repair broken and uneven paving at the rear of the house.

Information about this children's home

The home is privately owned and is registered to provide care and accommodation for up to six young people who have emotional and/or behavioural difficulties.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
16/07/2014	Full	adequate
08/01/2014	Interim	good progress
10/05/2013	Full	adequate
27/11/2012	Interim	good progress

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

Statutory Requirements

This section sets out the actions which must be taken so that the registered person/s meets the Care Standards Act 2000, Children's Homes Regulations 2001 and the National Minimum Standards. The registered person(s) must comply with the given timescales.

Reg.	Requirement	Due date
33 (2001)	ensure the independent person, shall interview, children accommodated , their parents, relatives and persons working at the children's home as appears necessary in order to form an opinion as to whether children accommodated at the children's home are effectively safeguarded; and the conduct of the children's home promotes the wellbeing of the children accommodated there. (Regulation 33 (8) (a)).	31/03/2015

Recommendations

To improve the quality and standards of care further the service should take account of the following recommendation(s):

- ensure there is a system in place to monitor the quality and adequacy of record keeping and take action when needed (22.1)
- ensure avoidable hazards are removed as is consistent with a domestic setting (NMS 10.3) This is with particular reference to the uneven and broken paving at the back of the house.

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.