

Children's homes - interim inspection

Inspection date	14/01/2016
Unique reference number	SC020193
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Residential special school
Registered person	The SENAD Group Limited
Registered person address	Senad Group Ltd, 1 St. Georges House, Vernon Gate, DERBY, DE1 1UQ

Responsible individual	Mark Flynn
Registered manager	David Hancox
Inspector	Rachel Griffiths

Inspection date	14/01/2016
Previous inspection judgement	Good
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 full inspection. At this interim inspection Ofsted judge that it has sustained effectiveness. Although there is evidence of areas of improvement, and children and young people continue to thrive, staff absence and a number of significant incidents have led to shortfalls being identified. This has resulted in leaders and managers reviewing systems in the home and devising action plans to prevent further shortfalls and improve practice. In addition, two regulatory shortfalls have been identified at this inspection in relation to the statement of purpose and the notification of serious incidents to the HMCI. These are matters that do not directly affect the welfare and well-being of children and young people. Consequently, the home continues to provide a good service to children and young people. Since the last inspection the registered manager has addressed one requirement and two recommendations made. Children and young people's case files now contain up to date local authority care plans. They also contain clear and up to date information about individual vulnerabilities, risk factors and how to help and support each child or young person in respect of this information. This ensures consistency of care. Information sharing with parents has also improved. One parent said: 'Staff ring us every night and keep us well informed of everything.' Despite staff feeling under pressure, working overtime and managers covering shifts as a result of staff sickness and absences, they have worked hard to ensure that the quality of care children and young people receive remains of a high standard. As a result, children and young people continue to make excellent progress and enjoy positive experiences. A parent said: 'My son could not be in a better place. He is really coming on educationally, behaviourally and in terms of his confidence. He is now going out regularly to try new things like playing badminton, going horse riding and for meals out.' A young person commented: 'I go football training and to watch football matches. We have raised money for charity by having a charity football match.' Consequently, their life experiences and chances improve. Comprehensive packages of multi-agency support provide children and young people with good levels of help and protection. Coordinated approaches between	

staff, in house education staff, speech and language therapists, occupational therapists, a psychotherapist and a specialist learning disabilities nurse ensure that children and young people receive the correct support and services to meet their individual needs. A social worker commented: 'This young person is being provided with a good package of multi-agency support which is reducing his anxiety, improving his behaviour and providing him with good opportunities in the community.'

Managers and leaders have responded proactively to a number of significant incidents and complaints made. When some of these highlighted shortfalls in practice, for example, in relation to the recording of physical injuries and informing placing authorities without delay about all significant incidents, prompt actions have been taken to investigate shortfalls and implement strategies to address them. This has included additional and improved training and development programmes for staff and the development and implementation of a new communication policy. Such improvements now need to be fully embedded in practice.

Internal and external quality assurance systems continue to be effective. They identify strengths and areas where improvements are required. In addition, regular consultation with children and young people, parents, the staff team and other professionals demonstrates how the manager continues to reflect and seek ways to make improvements to the service.

Although the registered manager has a system in place whereby he usually notifies the HMCI of significant incidents which occur in the home, on one occasion, following a child protection enquiry being initiated, he failed to do so. In this instance although it did not have a detrimental impact on the welfare of children and young people, it limited the regulators ability to monitor all significant incidents in the home and the management of these.

Overall, the home fulfils its commitment to children and young people as outlined in the recently updated statement of purpose. However, some additions are required in relation to the homes arrangements for promoting contact between children and young people and their families and friends and in respect of the homes approach to monitoring and surveillance of children and young people. Such amendments will provide parents and placing authorities with absolute clarity about every aspect of the service provided.

Information about this children's home

This home is registered to care for up to 25 children and young people with complex communication, learning difficulties and severe challenging behaviours. It is part of a residential special school and is owned by a private organisation

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
11/06/2015	Full	Good
20/01/2015	Interim	Improved Effectiveness
11/09/2014	Full	Good
16/07/2014	Full	Inadequate

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

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 (England) Regulations 2015 and the *Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards*. The registered person(s) must comply with the given timescales.

Requirement	Due date
The registered person must compile in relation to the children's home a statement ('the statement of purpose') which covers the matters listed in Schedule 1 (Regulation 16(1))	11/03/2016
The registered person must notify the HMCI and each other relevant person without delay if a child protection enquiry involving a child is instigated (Regulation 40 (4) (d) (i)).	11/03/2016

What the inspection judgements mean

At the interim inspection 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

Inspectors have looked closely at the experiences and progress of children and young people living in the children's home. Inspectors considered the quality of work and the difference adults make to the lives of children and young people. They read case files, watched how professional staff work with children, young people and each other and discussed the effectiveness of help and care given to children and young people. Wherever possible, they talked to children, 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 who 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.

This 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 Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015 and the *Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards*.

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