

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC020193
Inspector	Amanda Ellis
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Residential special school (>295 days/year)

Registered person	The SENAD Group Limited
Registered person address	1 St. Georges House Vernon Gate DERBY DE1 1UQ
Responsible individual	Mark Flynn
Registered manager	David Alan Hancox
Date of last inspection	11/09/2014

Inspection date	20/01/2015
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Previous inspection	good
Enforcement action since last inspection	none

This inspection

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

At the last full inspection of this service in September 2014, two requirements were set because of identified shortfalls. The manager has demonstrated within this inspection that these shortfalls have been met.

The statement of purpose is fully in accordance with regulation and has been submitted to the regulator Ofsted for review. This enables parents, stakeholders and the regulator to have a clear understanding of the homes purpose, aims, objectives and operation.

Improvements to supervision arrangements mean that supervision records are now more detailed. They include a more comprehensive overview of professional discussions, alongside details such as the time and duration of supervision sessions. This illustrates that managers and staff benefit from being proficiently supervised, monitored and supported. This ensures high standards of care to children and young people.

Since the last inspection, the management team continue to pursue their professional development, with the Registered Manager and deputy manager's progression in their Level 5 Diploma's. This means the management team are continually developing their leadership and management skills in line with children's home reforms.

Significant changes to the management of the health, safety and maintenance of the home had led to a more efficient system to rectify shortfalls and drive improvements in the physical environment. The Registered Manager ensures that environmental audits are routinely undertaken; risk assessments reviewed; and maintenance and improvements planned with set timescales. The maintenance manager and his team ensure task completion in line with the audit plans. This means the physical

environment of the home is vastly improved.

The Registered Manager has a development plan in place to promote ongoing improvements in the home. A programme of redecoration has been implemented with plans for renovation of the design and layout of parts of the home. Young people's bedrooms and communal areas are personalised, decorated and furnished to their tastes and preferences. Standards of décor and furnishings are generally good, however in isolated cases, young people require different bedroom furniture which better meets their growth and developmental needs.

Staffing improvements include the post of a dedicated Transitions Officer, whose role it is to oversee the admission and discharge of all young people. This means young people and their families benefit from comprehensively assessed and well-planned placements. However, essential plans from the placing authorities are not always on some young people's records. This has the potential to limit the staff team's ability to meet the needs young people. Despite this shortfall, staff have been proactive in working closely with social workers, health, education professionals and parents to ensure they provide care which meets the needs of young people. Consequently, all young people benefit from well-planned placements with clear arrangements for the progression of care plans.

Young people settle quickly and form positive relationships with staff. Staff work in partnership with parents and families to ensure young people feel secure and confident within the home. Over time, young people are nurtured and valued and learn to develop positive attachments and relationships with carers. This results in young people achieving improved outcomes in their social, behaviour and educational achievements.

Young people do not go missing from care in this home. However, where young people attempt to have an unauthorised absence, the knowledgeable staff team effectively implement the missing from care policy and locally agreed police protocols. This results in young people benefitting from high levels of protection and swift intervention.

Physical interventions are a method of behaviour management used when no other alternative is practical. Some young people pose a risk of harm to themselves or others. The skilled and knowledgeable staff team have an acute awareness of the underlying reasons for young people displaying challenging or harmful behaviours. Where physical intervention is used, it is used to prevent harm to young people or others. All staff have up to date physical intervention training and physical intervention records comply with regulatory requirements. The Registered Manager analyses and monitors physical intervention records to ensure interventions are appropriate, safe and identify potential strategies to avoid the future use of physical intervention.

Since the last inspection, some young people have made transitions to adult service

provisions. Assessment and planning is fully inclusive of the young person, parents, and health and social care staff. This ensures prospective homes can fully meet the social, educational and therapeutic needs of all young people. These placements are meticulously planned and coordinated. They ensure that young people move to the right placement for their individual needs.

These improvements, combined with ongoing developments within the operation of the home, highlight the homes capacity for continued improvement.

Two requirements are made, as a result of this inspection, to ensure full records are kept in the home of the young people and that the furniture meets their needs.

Information about this children's home

This home is registered to provide 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 owned by a private organisation.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
11/09/2014	Full	good
16/07/2014	Full	inadequate
25/03/2014	Interim	good progress
10/01/2014	Full	outstanding

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
28 (2001)	ensure that the registered Person shall maintain in respect of each child who is accommodated in a children's home, a record in permanent form which includes the information, documents and records specified in Schedule 3 relating to that child. This is in particular relation to point 18 and 19 in Schedule 3 (Regulation 28 (1) (a) Schedule 3 point 18 & 19)	20/02/2015
31 (2001)	ensure the children's home is suitably furnished to meet the need of the children accommodated and achieve the aims and objectives set out in the statement of purpose, with specific reference to the provision of appropriate beds which accommodate the growth of young people. (Regulation 31 (4) (a) (b))	20/02/2015

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.