

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC030797
Inspector	Janet Hunnam
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Registered person	Ethelbert Specialist Homes Limited
Registered person address	Cheesemans Farmhouse Alland Grange Lane, Manston Ramsgate Kent CT12 5BZ
Responsible individual	Leslie Peter Davenport
Registered manager	Natascha Tania Maria Field / POST VACANT
Date of last inspection	30/10/2014

Inspection date	18/03/2015
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**.

At the previous inspection in October 2014, the home was judged adequate for overall effectiveness. Two requirements were made.

One requirement related to demonstrating that staff fully considers the effectiveness of sanctions. Documents show that staff are now recording how the sanction is effective. This requirement is met. The manager monitors all records of measures of control and comments on the appropriateness of the measures thus providing proper oversight of practice within the home.

The other requirement related to ensuring that the home promotes and makes proper provision for the safeguarding and welfare of children accommodated there. This requirement has been met. At the time of the previous inspection, difficult dynamics amongst the group of young people resulted in a period of instability and incidents of bullying, challenging behaviour and police involvement. Managers recognised that the home could not meet the needs of some young people placed at the home and they have moved to placements that are more appropriate.

A new manager is in post who is applying for registration with Ofsted. She is focusing on establishing strong leadership within the home, providing effective support for staff and ensuring staff build positive relationships with young people. This, together with a change in group dynamics amongst young people, has resulted in a more positive ethos where there are clear boundaries and incidents of challenging behaviour are reducing. Although there have been incidents involving peer conflict and bullying behaviour, the number of such incidents is reducing. Staff are competent at dealing with such situations and provide high levels of monitoring and supervision to keep young people safe.

On-going redecoration and refurbishment is taking place at the home. Young people

are responding positively to improvements in their environment with a reduction in incidents involving damage to newly decorated areas.

Young people benefit from close monitoring of their health plans. The home now employs a qualified nurse on a part-time basis to strengthen provision for meeting young people's health needs and provide effective liaison with external health specialists.

Detailed information of the care needs and support requirements of young people new to the home is available to staff. Risk assessments clearly identify young people's specific vulnerabilities and strategies are in place to support and safeguard young people. Key working sessions directly link staff support to young people's short-term goals providing opportunities for them to develop, make progress and achieve positive outcomes.

Information about this children's home

The home is owned by a private organisation. It is registered to provide care and accommodation for up to a maximum of nine young people, who may have emotional and behavioural difficulties.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
30/10/2014	Full	adequate
04/03/2014	Interim	satisfactory progress
21/05/2013	Full	good
15/01/2013	Interim	satisfactory progress

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.