

Children's homes - interim inspection

Inspection date	29/03/2016
Unique reference number	SC030797
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home
Registered person	Ethelbert Specialist Homes Limited
Registered person address	Ethelbert Specialist Homes, Cheesemans Farmhouse, Alland Grange Lane, Manston, RAMSGATE, CT12 5BZ

Responsible individual	Leslie Davenport
Registered manager	Post vacant
Inspector	Jan Hunnam

Inspection date	29/03/2016
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. Following a serious incident at the home, it has been inactive since September 2015. It has re-opened when a new child was admitted very recently. Three requirements and three recommendations were made at the previous inspection. Two of the requirements have been met. Internal monitoring reports have been sent to Ofsted in line with regulations. There is sufficient guidance in risk assessments to provide clarity for staff when conducting bedroom checks to ensure consistent practice. The requirement relating to the impact of the quality of care provided on the progress and experience of each child cannot be evaluated at this inspection due to the very short time the child has been in placement. This requirement is therefore repeated. The recommendation relating to impact risk assessments when a new child is referred for admission cannot be considered as there is only one child in placement at the time of the inspection. This recommendation is repeated. The recommendation relating to self-harm training is repeated. The organisation is planning to train all staff in a comprehensive programme encompassing all aspects of self-harm but this has not yet been implemented. The recommendation relating to records of incidents involving physical intervention cannot be considered as there have been no such incidents since a child has been admitted. This recommendation is repeated. During the time the home has been inactive, it has been redecorated and provides a clean, bright and modern environment for children. Children have spacious bedrooms and furnishings are of a high standard. A new, experienced manager is in post and is applying for registration with Ofsted. The organisation has recruited new staff who are joining experienced staff to make up the staff team to work at the home. All relevant policies and procedures are in place. The child currently living at the home is settling and responding to the detailed 24	

hour management plan which provides staff with comprehensive guidance to ensure he receives consistent care that meets his individual needs. Rigorous and thorough risk assessments identify his specific vulnerabilities and guide staff in protecting him and reducing the potential of harm. Admission procedures are in line with the home's statement of purpose, which is being revised and forwarded to Ofsted to amend the age range of children who live at the home.

Information about this children's home

This home is owned by a private organisation. It is registered to provide care and accommodation for up to nine children with emotional and/or behavioural difficulties.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
19/08/2015	Full	Good
18/03/2015	Interim	Sustained effectiveness
30/10/2014	Full	Adequate
04/03/2014	Interim	Satisfactory progress

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
13: The leadership and management standard: In order to meet the leadership and management standard, the registered person must: (2)(f) understand the impact that the quality of care provided in the home is having on the progress and experiences of each child and use this understanding to inform the development of the quality of care provided in the home, particularly in regard to compiling a written development plan.	13/05/2016

Recommendations

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

Ensure that placements for children are only accepted where the registered person is satisfied that the home can respond effectively to the child's assessed needs as recorded in the child's relevant plans and where they have fully considered the impact that the placement will have on the existing group of children. (The Guide to the Quality Standards, page 56 paragraph 11.4)

Ensure that staff have the relevant skills and knowledge to be able to respond to the health needs of children. In particular, ensure staff receive training in relation to self-harm and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. (The Guide to the Quality Standards, page 34 paragraph 7.12)

Ensure that records of restraint enable the registered person and staff to review the use of control, discipline and restraint. (The Guide to the Quality Standards, page 49, paragraph 9.59)

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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