

Children's homes - interim inspection

Inspection date	10/02/2016
Unique reference number	SC032439
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home
Registered person	Wiltshire Council
Registered person address	Wiltshire Council, Director of Social Services, County Hall, Bythesea Road, TROWBRIDGE, Wiltshire, BA14 8LE

Responsible individual	Carolyn Godfrey
Registered manager	Tina Baker
Inspector	Nicola Lownds

Inspection date	10/02/2016
Previous inspection judgement	Requires improvement
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 Requires improvement at the full inspection. At this interim inspection Ofsted judge that it has Sustained effectiveness. The registered manager has a passion to drive the home forward to improve the experiences that children and young people have during their short break. Progress is slow but evident throughout; the registered manager recognises 'we have a long way to go to get to where we want to be'. Children and young people cannot move freely around the home due to restrictions imposed on them. Some internal doors have electronic key pads or lockable wooden gates preventing access to kitchens, a dining room and stairwell. Bedroom doors have door alarms to alert staff when a child comes out of their room at night. Some cupboards have locks on them including a toy cupboard and wardrobe. The rationale for the restrictions is to safeguard children and young people. Staff do not consider the impact of their use in children and young people's individual placement plans and risk assessments. Staff understand the child protection policy and follow it when concerns arise about a child or young person. The registered manager acts on these concerns and shares information with social care professionals appropriately. Child protection records are not clear or succinct. Information is not consistently recorded in the child's file and outcomes of concerns are not evident. This makes it unclear if there are any actions staff need to take to safeguard children and young people. Trends and patterns are difficult to monitor. The registered manager has updated policies to improve this; these are yet to go live. Equipment around the home such as monitoring screens, soap and paper towel dispensers that are not domestic in style, do not give a sense of this being a homely environment. Some new décor and pictures show acknowledgment of this weakness and an attempt to make improvements but, there is more work to do. The registered manager plans to improve her monitoring system to evaluate the quality of care even further. Her six monthly report is descriptive and does not recognise the weaknesses she could clearly identify during this inspection. The independent person failed to visit the home in September, their reports do not	

evidence that they consult with parents and relatives of young people. While the majority of requirements from the last inspection are met, this one is repeated.

The deputy manager has conducted a full review into the use of safe space beds that restrict children and young people in the night. Staff have supported children and young people to progress and sleep in a bed which is less restrictive. The review is ongoing but shows good progress in meeting the requirement from the previous inspection.

Increased rigour in the monitoring of behaviour management records identifies shortfalls swiftly. The deputy manager reviews strategies to ensure they improve the experiences children and young people have during their stay. Physical interventions have decreased since the last inspection, this is positive.

Children and young people make progress with simple tasks that increase their experiences and quality of life. A young person has started to make choices through pictures, while others are engaged in activities such as yoga. A parent said 'they have helped my child move on so much'.

Information about this children's home

This is a local authority short break children's home. It is registered to provide care and accommodation for no more than 8 children of either sex from 5 years to 17 years at any one time. The home may provide care to children with learning disabilities and/or physical disabilities.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
09/06/2015	CH - Full	Requires improvement
21/10/2014	CH - Interim	Improved effectiveness
02/05/2014	CH - Full	Good
10/02/2014	CH - 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
6: The quality and purpose of care standard In order to meet the quality and purpose of care standard the registered person must: (c) Ensure that the premises used for the purposes of the home are designed and furnished so as to- (i) Meet the needs of each child; and (ii) Enable each child to participate in the daily life of the home In particular to take account of signs and equipment in the home that contribute to an 'institutional' feel.	07/04/2016
12: The protection of children standard In order to meet the protection of children standard the registered person must ensure that: (b) that the home's day-to-day care is arranged and delivered so as to keep each child safe and to protect each child effectively from harm; In particular improve recording systems to include outcomes of child protection referrals and ensure information is stored centrally on children and young people's care files.	10/03/2016
20: Restraint and deprivation of liberty 'The registered person must ensure restraint in relation to a child must be necessary and proportionate (Regulation 20 (2))' In particular review the restrictions in place that prevent freedom of movement around the home such as locked doors, gates and door alarm systems.	07/04/2016

44: Independent person: visits and reports 'The registered person must ensure that an independent person visits the children's home at least once each month (Regulation 44 (1)) 'When the independent person is carrying out a visit, the registered person must help the independent person - if they consent, to interview in private such of the children, their parents, relatives and persons working at the home as the independent person requires; (Regulation 44 (2)(a))'.	07/04/2016
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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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