

Children's homes - interim inspection

Inspection date	30/03/2016
Unique reference number	SC033174
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home
Registered person	Hampshire County Council
Registered person address	Hampshire County Council, The Castle, WINCHESTER, Hampshire, SO23 8ZB

Responsible individual	Susan Lomax
Registered manager	Maria Calway-Kennedy
Inspector	Emeline Evans

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. There is strong leadership and management in the home. The manager knows the strengths of the home and areas for development. These are shared with the staff team so they are working to consistent goals and use this to determine shift planning and risk assessment. Since the last inspection, the home has experienced some changes within the group dynamics in the home. The manager understands the impact on new placements on the home and ensures decisions to admit young people are based on ability to sustain placements. One young person has recently left ; this was a very well-facilitated, planned move with the young person moving on to semi-independent setting. The home worked closely with external professionals to ensure the welfare of the young person was maintained through this process. Staff continue to support the young person one day a week to ensure a positive transition is achieved. There has been one new admission to the home, which has resulted in some new challenges for the staff team. Through open relationships, regular key work sessions and network meetings staff are able to support the young person to reflect on behaviour and begin to make changes. In recent months, the home has experienced some increase in challenging behaviour exhibited and staff have worked effectively together to support each other and the young people. Staff recognise that during transitions, due to young people's emotional fragility, they may need extra support and these behaviours may increase. Young people are beginning on the journey of reflecting on the impact of their behaviour. Some young people continue to place themselves at risk and engage in risk taking behaviours such as missing from care and substance misuse. The home is working with professionals including the local neighbourhood police, specialist workers in drug and alcohol misuse and the young people to enable a reduction in these behaviours. Staff describe how they are constantly reviewing individualised behaviour management strategies systems to ensure they are effective. There is a vast array of information about young people available. However, there is a lack of robust collaboration of information and a reliance on staff knowing the young people. Care plans do not detail strategies to be	

implemented in relation to health including substance and alcohol misuse and smoking as detailed as behaviours in referral information. Care planning does not specify current approaches and education by members of staff and other health professionals. There is no detail of strategies being used or measurable targets against which to assess outcomes for young people in reducing these behaviours.

Never-the-less, behaviour is generally managed well. The restraints records show that there has been no use of physical restraint as a means of managing behaviour in the period since the last inspection. Staff effectively use redirection and discussing the situation with young people before incidents, escalate. Any sanctions imposed are reasonable and relevant to the misdemeanour committed. Staff work with the young people in a restorative manner; this is enabling young people to take ownership and have a sense of personal responsibility.

Relationships continue to develop between young people and staff that enable young people to feel safe and confident while developing a positive self-awareness. This ensures that young people are making good progress in their lives while coming to understand the issues relating to their care. On discussion with a young person, they were not clear on who their social worker was and their role and therefore were not aware of whom to contact about requests and information in relation to contact visits. These details should be readily available to young people who may have difficulties in retaining information.

The service is monitored and subject to regular internal auditing by the management team and external scrutiny by an external visitor. The external monitoring reports have limited evaluation of how effectively young people are safeguarded. The manager described how this is feedback during the visit. However, the lack of written information hinders the ability of the manager to fully identify patterns and trends and use this within internal monitoring. The manager has comprehensive development plans in operation and these are used to inform her internal monitoring. Within these reports, it is evident how the manager intends to further improve the quality of care.

One requirement was made at the last inspection, the home has fully considered this and risk assessed the young people's and carers request for a trampoline. Decisions were made that the risk was deemed as too high. The manager has researched this thoroughly and alternatives have been sought. Young people were involved in choosing outside exercise equipment and now have access to trampoline centres on a regular basis.

Staff are confident in their roles and key workers well informed on the needs and progress of their key child. There is a commitment from the management and staff in the home to improve outcomes and experiences for young people; staff have positive and realistic aspirations for young people.

--

Information about this children's home

This is a local authority children's home that provides care and accommodation for up to five children and young people with emotional and/or behavioural difficulties.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
10/11/2015	CH - Full	Good
12/03/2015	CH - Interim	sustained effectiveness
28/11/2014	CH - Full	Good
13/02/2014	CH - Interim	Inadequate 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
10 The health and well-being standard In order to meet the health and well-being standard the registered person is required to ensure: (2)(a)(i) that staff help each child to achieve the health and well-being outcomes that are recorded in the child's relevant plans.	28/04/2016

Recommendations

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

- Ensure the individual appointed to carry out visits to the home as the independent person makes a rigorous assessment of the homes arrangements for safeguarding the children in the home's care. (The Guide to the Quality Standards, page 65, paragraph 15.5)
- Ensure that children understand their rights as a looked-after child or child living in the home. This specifically relates to ensuring they know who their social worker is, their role and how to contact them. (The Guide to the Quality Standards, page 23, paragraph 4.19)

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*.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the guidance *raising concerns and making complaints about Ofsted*, which is available from Ofsted's website: www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted. If you would like Ofsted to send you a copy of the guidance, please telephone 0300123 4234, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, workbased learning and skills training, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It inspects services for looked after children and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 4234, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

You may reuse this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, visit www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence, write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk.

This publication is available at www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted.

Interested in our work? You can subscribe to our monthly newsletter for more information and updates: <http://eepurl.com/iTrDn>.

Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 1231
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted

© Crown copyright 2016