

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC034415
Inspector	Debbie Foster
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Registered manager	Eliot Clayton Dales / POST VACANT
Date of last inspection	22/10/2014

Inspection date	24/02/2015
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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 **sustained effectiveness**.

The new manager ensures the staff provide young people with good quality care and that they are kept safe. Young people continue to make steady progress in a number of areas of their lives and they all attend education regularly to support their learning.

The majority of the requirements made at the last inspection have been implemented. As a result, the home has reviewed the Statement of Purpose which includes the matters listed in Schedule 1 as required by the regulations. This provides young people, their families and others with full details about the care the service offers.

Appropriate references for agency staff working at the home are held, including a reference from the person's last employer, along with other required checks. Therefore, the suitable vetting of staff working with young people is undertaken to ensure they are safe to work with young people.

A location risk assessment has been completed. This establishes facts to determine the appropriateness and suitability of the location of the premises of the children's home and the action required to reduce the risks identified to safeguard young people.

Improvements have been made to the independent monthly monitoring of the service. The independent visitor is more actively scrutinising the way the quality of care is delivered to young people. This identifies shortfalls in the care provided and enables the service to make improvements.

Two requirements and a recommendation have been partially met. The independent monthly monitoring visitor does observe care practice, consult with staff and some

young people. However, they do not routinely interview parents, relatives and professionals. This does not enable the visitor to form a full opinion as to whether children accommodated are effectively safeguarded and the conduct of the home promotes their wellbeing in all instances.

The manager is reporting to Ofsted on a three monthly basis on the findings of the monitoring of the service undertaken, as required by the regulations. However, the manager is not consistently consulting with parents and placing authorities. This does not ensure that their views and opinions about their care provided are obtained. Consequently, the service is not robustly monitored in all areas, and this could reduce improvements to the quality of care provided.

Reviews of young people's care are taking place. However, the set aims and goals identified within each young person's care plan and supporting records are not consistently reported on. This does not support and assist in the evaluation of each young person's progress and achievements.

The manager demonstrates a good awareness of the strengths and weaknesses of the service. Since taking up the post he has started to make changes to further improve the quality of care. This includes, areas relating to staff deployment; reviewing recording systems, an increase in the frequency of team meetings; young people's communication and consultation. A new independent visitor has been appointed to bring further improvement to the monitoring of service and outcomes for young people.

Staff are enthusiastic about their work and are dedicated to the care of young people. They have a good awareness of young people's needs, vulnerabilities and how they need to keep young people safe. No safeguarding matters have occurred since the last inspection. Positive and secure relationships are evident between young people and the staff. Young people are well supported to access their choice of leisure activities to enhance their daily lives and experiences. For example, some young people choose to listen to music or play in their bedrooms. Others choose to watch their favourite film and play with sensory toys and two young people went to see a football match.

Information about this children's home

This children's home is owned and managed by a charitable trust. The home forms part of a campus including a school and residential provision for adults.

The home provides long term care for up to eight children and there is separate accommodation for up to seven children at a time staying for short breaks. The service is for children with severe and profound learning disabilities, physical disabilities and sensory impairment. Children frequently have complex health care needs as well, for example needing percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy (PEG) feeding, epilepsy and diabetes.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
22/10/2014	Full	good
06/01/2014	Interim	good progress
12/09/2013	Full	good
18/02/2013	Interim	satisfactory progress

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
33 (2001)	ensure the independent person interviews with their consent and in private, such of the children accommodated there, their parents, relatives and persons working at the home in order to form an opinion as to whether children accommodated are effectively safeguarded and the conduct of the home promotes their wellbeing (Regulation 33 (8))	28/05/2015

	(a) & (b))	
34 (2001)	establish and maintain a system for monitoring the matters set out in Schedule 6 at least once in every 3 months and a system for improving the quality of care provided. The system shall provide for consultation with children accommodated in the home, their parents and placing authorities (Regulation 34 (1) (a), (b) & (3))	28/05/2015

Recommendations

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

- ensure each child's placement plan is monitored by a key worker within the home who ensures that the requirements of the plan are implemented in the day-to-day care of that child. In particular review and evaluate children's progress and achievements. (NMS 25.2)

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.