

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC035657
Inspector	Angela Whiteley
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Registered person	Cambian Childcare Limited
Registered person address	Pinnacle House 2 Oakwood Square, Cheadle Royal Business Park CHEADLE Cheshire SK8 3SB
Responsible individual	Michael Ore
Registered manager	Shazad Iqbal
Date of last inspection	27/11/2014

Inspection date	30/03/2015
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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 **improved effectiveness**.

Since the last inspection the service has demonstrated continued improvement in its quality of care and outcomes for young people. The two requirements and two recommendations identified at the last inspection have been positively addressed. This demonstrates the Registered Manager's commitment to improving the service.

Outcomes for young people continue to develop positively with reductions in risk-taking behaviour, improvements in contact arrangements and better engagement with education and work placements. The staff in the home have taken steps to ensure appropriate education opportunities are available to young people to enable them to continue their learning. Some have been supported to return to learning after a long absence, others have returned to mainstream schooling having made excellent progress in specialist learning environments. Effective use of incentives and rewards promotes young people's attendance and achievement. Teaching staff also recognise students' efforts with letters of congratulation being sent to the home.

Young people are engaged in a number of activities that develop their skills and abilities such as, snooker and attending the gym. This helps to broaden young people's social and friendship networks in a positive and appropriate way. Staff encourage young people to develop strong relationships with friends outside the home and welcome them when they visit the home.

Young people benefit from the effective application of policies, procedures, systems and practices, which help staff safeguard and promote young people's welfare. The Registered Manager has improved the system of notifying serious incidents to Ofsted, particularly where young people are missing from home for several days. This ensures young people receive the necessary support and protection immediately. A proactive working relationship with the police and other specialist agencies ensures young people return home safely. Consequently, incidents of

young people going missing from home have significantly reduced.

Young people's behaviour continues to be modified and improved through clear and consistent messages from staff that understand and support young people to achieve their daily routines. Relationships between staff and young people are a real strength of this home. As a result, sanctions are rare and physical intervention is not required.

A comprehensive improvement plan is in place to address any maintenance and repair work identified at the home. Young people benefit from the work undertaken to improve the appearance of the home. This includes redecoration of communal areas and planned redecoration of some young people's bedrooms. Security cameras have recently been installed to the front and rear of the property. These measures ensure young people and staff live in a comfortable and homely environment, which promotes their safety and welfare.

Young people benefit from the improved knowledge and understanding of staff who have attended specialist training, for example, e-safety training. Staff are up-to-date with their practice and actively manage internet access to safeguard young people. Young people are offered the opportunity to explore and discuss e-safety issues, which help them to develop skills to manage their own online safety.

The home has a comprehensive Statement of Purpose, which has recently been reviewed to provide clear and accurate information. A further review of the document is taking place to ensure it reflects the aims and objectives of the home. The staff team are experienced and well qualified. They hold relevant qualifications or are working towards the required care qualification and will complete in an appropriate timescale.

Young people confirm they feel safe and enjoy living in the home; their parents, relatives and other professionals involved in their care confirm this. A young person said, 'It's the best care home ever,' and a placing social worker confirmed; 'the young person is happy and doing well.'

The Registered Manager has an organised and proactive approach to managing the home. He has developed effective quality assurance systems that monitor the operation and management of the home, which he regularly reviews. However, monthly monitoring visits to the home are currently undertaken by a Registered Manager from another home within the same company, which represents a conflict of interest. The registered provider is planning to appoint an independent person to undertake these visits to ensure the home is compliant with regulation.

The Registered Manager provides strong leadership, which promotes good quality care and positive outcomes for young people. He is very experienced and has clear expectations for the smooth running of the home. He has strong support from a competent deputy manager and a motivated and skilled stable staff team who

understand the needs of the young people in placement. As a result, staff deliver a strong, child-focused service. This helps young people develop their potential and ensures the standards within the home remain high and continue to improve.

Information about this children's home

This service is a privately run children's home. It is registered to provide care and accommodation for up to seven children or young people with emotional and/or behavioural difficulties.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
27/11/2014	Full	good
13/03/2014	Interim	good progress
03/12/2013	Full	outstanding
12/02/2013	Interim	good 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 registered provider appoints an independent person to visit and report on the children's home. (Regulation 33 (1) & Children's homes regulations amendments 2014, paragraph 2.8 - 2.9, July 2014)	11/05/2015

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.