

Children's homes - interim inspection

Inspection date	25/11/2015
Unique reference number	SC040633
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home
Registered person	Surrey County Council
Registered person address	Quadrant Court, 35 Guildford Road, Woking, Surrey, GU22 7QQ

Responsible individual	Mr Ian Forbes
Registered manager	Ms Sharon Newton
Inspector	Mr Whatley

Inspection date	26/11/2015
Previous inspection judgement	sustained effectiveness
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 Outstanding at the last full inspection. At this interim inspection Ofsted judge that it has sustained effectiveness. The home continues to offer young people an outstanding level of care, support and guidance. The strength of relationships between young people and the adults who care for them is the bedrock of practice. As a result young people remain settled and make significant progress in improving their levels of confidence and self-esteem. The one requirement and recommendation relating to the previous inspection have been addressed. The home is amidst a programme of refurbishment. This includes renovating windows, installing new bathrooms and redecorating the environment. Builders have been on site for several weeks with all improvements set for completion before the Christmas holidays. The storage and administration of medication has improved. Where any shortfalls occur immediate actions rectify the issue, provide additional training and increase vigilance. Young people benefit from a home run by a vibrant and highly motivated management team who are ambitious to learn and improve at every opportunity. Their dedication to provide continually high standards of individualised care is matched only by their desire to innovate. For example monitoring procedures being linked with the new regulations and quality standards. In particular the routine assessment of progress made by each young person. Such an approach highlights an excellent appreciation of current legislation and what this means in practice. Young people say they feel safe within an environment where their well-being is of paramount concern. Staff know young people extremely well and are swift in recognising changes in their behaviour, attitudes or mood. There have been no episodes of running away from care and very few incidents where staff have needed to use physical restraint. In rare instances young people have placed themselves at risk when using social media. A robust response to concerns includes liaising closely with partner agencies such as schools and the police to put in place protective strategies. This ensures a sensitive and cohesive approach that assists young people to stay safe, recognise their own vulnerabilities and learn about the risk of exploitation.	

All young people maintain high levels of attendance in education with a number doing exceptionally well in their learning and development. Progress is recognised through them receiving achievement awards from schools and the care council. Young people who received awards last year, but who did not feel confident enough to go on stage and collect them, have grown considerably in confidence and were able to do so this time.

A stable team of experienced, motivated and committed staff ensure young people have their specific and complex needs met to the highest standards. Their energy and focus allows young people continued opportunities to explore their own surroundings and be a part of the local community. For example young people were encouraged to learn a musical instrument and subsequently join an orchestra. This culminated in them taking part when the orchestra played at a prestigious concert venue. Young people say staff are, 'lovely...and care so much about us'. Interactions are warm and natural which helps to create an atmosphere of mutual respect and understanding.

Information about this children's home

This home is owned and managed by a local authority. It provides care and accommodation for up to five children and young people who may have emotional or behavioural disorders.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
30/03/2015	CH - Interim	sustained effectiveness
15/01/2015	CH - Full	Outstanding
27/03/2014	CH - Interim	Good Progress
14/11/2013	CH - Full	Outstanding

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 2015