

Children's homes - interim inspection

Inspection date	15/12/2015
Unique reference number	SC045096
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home
Registered person	Blackford Education (Schools) Ltd T/A Libra
Registered person address	C/o Pullman House, 7 Battle Road, Heathfield Industrial Estate, NEWTON ABBOT, Devon, TQ12 6RY

Responsible individual	Alan Wilkes
Registered manager	Lisa Jackson
Inspector	Paul Clark

Inspection date	15/12/2015
Previous inspection judgement	Outstanding
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 full inspection. At this interim inspection Ofsted judge that it has sustained effectiveness. ▪ Young people progress well with their educational achievement and are supported by the home to attend school full-time. Care staff support young people travelling to and from school, and in the classroom. This helps to ensure full-time attendance, prevent classroom disruption, and it gives young people practical support with their work. One independent reviewing officer commented, 'School attendance is good and it's a really stable placement.' Another placing social worker commented, '...he has made progress at school. They take great care to make sure his mum gets invited to school meetings.' ▪ Young people's emotional well-being is supported by the agency's provision of therapeutic services. This includes psychological assessment and regular ongoing direct work with a play therapist. The work is firmly based on attachment theory and the therapist attends staff meetings to give staff clinical supervision into individual young people's needs. An independent reviewing officer commented, 'They work hard to repair her trauma through equine therapy and play therapy.' ▪ Young people make good progress with their behaviour in relation to their starting points. This is achieved by effective assessment of need and individual risk assessments, which are regularly reviewed, together with a consistent approach to behaviour management. One placing social worker commented, 'The home has made great improvements in his ability to control his behaviour.' The use of physical restraint in this home is comparatively low compared to a home of this size, caring for young people with similar needs. Staff receive training in the use of restraint and all such events are effectively recorded and young people complete a 'self-reflection' summary of events which they complete after discussion with the manager of the home. This helps to ensure that young people take some responsibility for their own behaviour.	

- Although the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) reported that there were no current or recent safeguarding concerns about this home, the manager drew to the inspector's attention on the day of the inspection, that a parent had raised a concern about bruising on their child's arm and that this may have occurred during a recent restraint. The LADO has been informed and is currently investigating. All appropriate bodies have been notified.

- The manager of the home conducts quarterly reviews of the service which draw upon the monthly visits and reports conducted by an independent visitor. These reports are generally favourable. There are examples where the home has made changes to their practice because of issues identified by the independent visitor. This has included the promotion of more outdoor activities to address the garden area been unavailable during building work being undertaken. The manager also takes young people's views into account when conducting the review. This is achieved by monthly questionnaire surveys of the young people, regular house meetings and young people's weekly discussions with their key worker. One example of this was a young person's request to decorate his room differently, and this subsequently happened.

- The manager ensures that all appropriate authorities are informed through notification about significant events that occur. On one single occasion this involved notification of one young person going missing for a brief period. This resulted in the event being clearly recorded; collaboration with the police officer responsible for the oversight of missing young people, who met with the young person to advise them about the dangers that might occur from going missing; and a reassessment of the young person's risk assessment. It was noted that the home's record of accidents included detail of a young person being taken to the local Accident and Emergency department for attention to a cut finger. Notification had not been made to Ofsted about this. The manager must ensure that notifications are made whenever one of the situations specified in Regulation 40 occurs. Specifically, if a young person is taken to an Accident and Emergency Department for medical attention.

- The home has responded quickly and effectively to the requirement of the previous Ofsted inspection and now all children's bedrooms have safety caps on electrical sockets.

Information about this children's home

This children's home is run by a locally-based private company, which also operates another four homes in the area. The company also run a school which is inspected by Ofsted's education inspectors.

The children's home currently provides long-term and respite care for a maximum of four young people, who may have emotional or behavioural difficulties and/or learning disabilities.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
09/09/2015	CH - Full	Outstanding
16/03/2015	CH - Interim	declined in effectiveness
16/10/2014	CH - Full	Good
25/02/2014	CH - Interim	Satisfactory Progress
24/07/2013	CH - Full	Outstanding
18/02/2013	CH - Interim	Satisfactory Progress
20/11/2012	CH - Full	Good
25/01/2012	CH - Interim	Satisfactory Progress
01/06/2011	CH - Full	Good
22/09/2010	CH - Interim	Good
29/06/2010	CH - Full	Good
22/03/2010	CH - Interim	Good
19/08/2009	CH - Full	Good
23/10/2008	CH - Full	Good
27/06/2008	CH - Interim	Good
04/12/2007	CH - Interim	Good
01/08/2007	CH - Full	Good

What does the children's home need to do to improve?

Recommendations

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

- Ensure that the registered person notifies Ofsted if one of the situations specified in Regulation 40 occurs. Specifically, if a child requires emergency medical attention. (Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, page 63, paragraph 14.10)

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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