

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC045096
Inspector	Guy Mammatt
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Registered person	Blackford Education (Schools) Ltd T/A Libra
Registered person address	Edgemoor Court SOUTH MOLTON Devon EX36 3LN
Responsible individual	Alan Wilkes
Registered manager	Lisa Jackson
Date of last inspection	16/10/2014

Inspection date	16/03/2015
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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 **declined in effectiveness**.

There are fundamental weaknesses in the care planning and the admission process for some of the young people, consequently their needs are not met and they are not kept safe.

The manager does not operate the home in-line with the admission criteria described in the Statement of Purpose. A placing authority care plan has not been obtained for all of the young people. Consequently, the staff are not in receipt of the reasons and the aims for the young people's placement and they cannot ensure care is provided in line with their needs. The monitoring of the home is not effective as managers have not identified and rectified this shortfall in provision.

The care plans completed by staff do not provide sufficient detail to promote the personal care of the young people. This does not safeguard the young people or provide staff with the necessary guidance to support these needs. In addition, these care plans are not tailored towards the individual young people, as some of the terminology, strategies and developmental targets are not in-line with their age and cognitive understanding. This does not provide realistic opportunities for young people to progress.

The behaviour management plans for young people are unsatisfactory. They do not detail the appropriate physical intervention techniques to be used, with consideration to the size and age of the young people. This has the potential to harm young people if an inappropriate restraint is used.

The Registered Manager has met the requirements and the recommendations made at the previous inspection. Staff now describe the measure used when recording a restraint and the reason for the use of electronic sensors inside the home is detailed in the young people's care plans. The young people are also now routinely offered

medical attention following a restraint.

The young people achieve good outcomes across their education, health and social needs. The young people's attendance at school is excellent, they engage in core subjects, practical topics and some have begun taking their GCSE's qualifications. The staff promote the health needs of the young people well. They participate in a range of physical activities, attend their medical appointments and are engaged with specialist support services. The young people enjoy attending local clubs, learning new skills and spending time with their friends outside of school time. The young people benefit from regular opportunities to meet with their family; some are also developing their independence abilities by regularly using public transport on visits with them.

The young people do not engage in risk taking behaviour and there are no reported occasions of them going missing from the home. The manager monitors the use of restraints and sanctions to identify any trends and to implement strategies which decrease their use. This has been effective as restraints have reduced since the previous inspection and sanctions are used infrequently.

The home is decorated and furnished to an acceptable standard. The young people personalise their rooms and have age appropriate toys and games available. The staff engage the young people with activities and imaginative play, as well as support them with their school work. The manager has plans agreed to develop the premises this year, which will modernise the home and provide more communal space for the young people.

The manager carries out regular professional supervision with the staff team. This gives the staff the opportunity to reflect on their practice and discuss their professional development. The placing authority feedback is positive about the communication from the home and the progress of the young people.

Information about this children's home

The home is owned by a private company. It is registered to provide care and accommodation for up to four young people. The care packages usually include the provision of education at the company's school.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
16/10/2014	Full	good
25/02/2014	Interim	satisfactory progress
24/07/2013	Full	outstanding
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
4 (2001)	ensure that the children's home is at all times conducted in a manner which is consistent with its statement of purpose (Regulation 4 (6))	31/03/2015
11 (2001)	ensure that the children's home is conducted so as to promote and make proper provision for the safeguarding and welfare of children accommodated there; with particular reference to ensuring that the home's care plans detail the personal care needs of the young people (Regulation 11 (1) (b))	31/03/2015
11 (2001)	ensure that the children's home is conducted so as to make proper provision for the care, education, supervision, support and ,where appropriate, treatment, of children accommodated there; with particular reference to ensuring the home's care	31/03/2015

	plans are tailored to the individual needs of the young people (Regulation 11 (1) (b))	
11 (2001)	ensure that the children's home is conducted so as to make proper provision for the care, education, supervision, support and ,where appropriate, treatment, of children accommodated there; with particular reference to ensuring the behaviour management plans detail the physical intervention techniques which are applicable for each young person (Regulation 11 (1)(b))	31/03/2015
12A (2001)	ensure that in the case of a child who is looked after by a local authority the registered person must co-operate with the child's placing authority in agreeing and signing the plan for the child's placement prepared in accordance with the provisions in regulation 9; with particular reference to ensuring that all children have a local authority placement plan. (Regulation 12A (1))	31/03/2015

Recommendations

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

- ensure that the manager monitors, in line with regulations, all records kept by the home to ensure compliance with the home's policies, to identify any concerns about specific incidents and to identify patterns and trends. Immediate action is taken to address any issues raised by this monitoring. (NMS 21.2)

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.