

Children's homes - interim inspection

Inspection date	01/09/2015
Unique reference number	SC045408
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home
Registered person	Surrey County Council
Registered person address	Surrey County Council, Children's & Safeguarding Service, Runnymede Centre, Chertsey Road, ADDLESTONE, Surrey, KT15 2EP

Responsible individual	Mr Ian Forbes
Registered manager	Mr Colin Christensen
Inspector	Mrs Maxwell

Inspection date	02/09/2015
Previous inspection judgement	Good
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 Good at the full inspection. At this interim inspection Ofsted judge that it has sustained effectiveness. The home continues to provide good quality care to the young people who reside there. They are being supported and learning the essential skills to support them in their future years. Staff are caring and nurturing towards those in their care providing an environment which allows young people to make progress. They are knowledgeable and have insight into the needs of those in their care. Young people feel safe and trust the adults that care for them and seek their support when able to. Young people are encouraged with their education, staff actively support them to engage in education within their capabilities. Young people are fully involved in the planning and decisions linked to aspects of their education. Staff were supporting young people to prepare to start at new education settings and ensuring they were equipped for the beginning of the new term. Individual health plans provide clarity regarding needs and interventions required to support young people with their daily health care. There are links with others to ensure all aspects of health care and review is provided to each young person. Individual care plans consider each individual's physical and emotional health needs and how to support their development. There is a wide range of activities available which offer opportunity to develop skills. An example of this noted was encouraging a young person to learn to swim. The recent holidays and mini breaks were tailored to meet each young person's needs and these were enjoyed by both young people and staff. Serious incidents and accidents are well documented and reported with clear behaviour plans and risk assessments providing de-escalation strategies and interventions. Young people are making good progress and developing skills and strategies to enable them to manage their behaviours and emotions. This was particularly apparent with progress of a young person who has had a reduced level of incidents requiring physical intervention and support.	

Risk taking behaviours are well managed and documented. Risks associated with child sexual exploitation are minimised through assessment, identification of risk and plans with strategies to reduce risk. Multi-agency meetings are requested when a young person's behaviour alters and risk levels increase. Collaborative working with key contributors promotes young people's safety.

Episodes of missing are reviewed and individual plans are implemented following incidents. Staff avoid episodes of missing by maintaining regular contact with young people and offering a variety of options to encourage the young person to return to the home. All young people are offered a return to care interview following a missing episode.

Pre-admission risk assessments enable consideration of risk and underpin good care planning prior to placements being made. This has allowed for positive risk taking to occur which has specifically benefited a young person. The home does accept emergency admissions and the quality of the assessment is impacted and not as robust in these circumstances. Staff are currently reviewing their pre-admission assessment processes.

Staff promote contact and regular review of these plans takes place. Young people are supported with making arrangements and to sustain positive contact with their families through telephone updates and face-to-face contact.

Wishes and views of young people are sought on a regular basis via their individual target planning sessions and child looked after reviews. Young people's comments regarding the quality of care within the home are listened to and acted on when appropriate.

All recommendations made at the last inspection have been implemented and acted on. The leaders and managers are effective in their leadership of staff. There are monthly evaluation and review processes which allow for clear oversight and audit of systems in place. Staff receive effective regular supervision which enables reflective review of practice and development. Regular training is offered which is appropriate for their role and all new staff are well supported through the induction process and review of probation period.

The home is lacking personalisation, for example, there are no photographs on show of current or previous young people who have lived at the home.

Information about this children's home

- The home is registered to care for up to 2 children with emotional and/or behavioural difficulties.
- The home is owned and managed by the local authority.
- The home intends to provide care for children and young people for up to a year as well as being able to take emergency placements.
- The home is in an urban location within easy access of community services and facilities.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
05/01/2015	CH - Full	Good
29/07/2014	CH - Interim	sustained effectiveness
24/03/2014	CH - Interim	Good Progress
08/10/2013	CH - Full	Adequate

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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