

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC045408
Inspector	Paul Taylor
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	Louise Warren
Registered manager	Colin Roy Christensen
Date of last inspection	24/03/2014

Inspection date	29/07/2014
Previous inspection	good progress
Enforcement action since last inspection	none

This inspection

This home was judged adequate at the last full inspection. At this interim inspection Ofsted judge that it has **sustained effectiveness**.

The home was judged as adequate at the last full inspection in October 2013. In March 2014 an interim inspection found the home to have made good progress. At that inspection no recommendations or requirements were made.

In April this year there was a significant event at this home and as a result the home briefly suspended admissions. The home has remained registered and is now caring for young people again.

Young people continue to receive very good support while placed at the home. Bespoke packages of care ensure that their needs are known and met to a good standard. Young people speak of feeling safe at the home and say they feel listened to. 'Nine out of ten, I like it here' is a comment from a young person. 'I don't get into trouble since I came to live here' is another comment.

Behaviour support to young people has enabled them to make significant progress. For example, periods of being absent without permission have dramatically reduced in specific cases. Young people are often admitted in an emergency and at a point of crisis. The home is very good at providing them with space to reflect on their circumstances and to develop coping skills. Additionally, the home also ensures that care plans are developed using information available so that the young person's needs can be met. If it becomes apparent that a young person's needs can be better met in a specialist service, then the home is effective at securing this and moving the young person on successfully. This process is managed with sensitivity.

The home is well managed by a suitably experienced and qualified Registered Manager. Monitoring of practice and care planning is of a good standard. Members of staff report feeling well supported and receive a good range of training to ensure that they have the skills and competencies to meet the young people's needs.

Examples of training include restraint, restorative practice and safeguarding training.

Staff meetings occur regularly and members of staff take it in turn to write the minutes. These are not always completed promptly and so are not available in time for the subsequent meeting. This means that members of staff who have been away, for example, on leave, may not be able to catch up on what has happened in this forum. While no young person's welfare has been affected by this shortfall, it can lead to gaps in some information passing.

Good links are maintained with community services such as the Youth Support Service, Police and health service. This ensures that joint working can easily be achieved if a young person has come to the attention of any of these services. Additionally, the Registered Manager is also a member of the group of professionals, including the police and Youth Offending Teams, which meets to discuss young people who go missing and are at risk of sexual exploitation. This enables joint protocols to be developed and information to be shared between key agencies so that the young people can be protected.

Information about this children's home

This local authority managed children's home is registered for two young people of either gender. The home facilitates assessments while providing short to medium-term placements including emergency and crisis placements.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
24/03/2014	Interim	good progress
08/10/2013	Full	adequate
13/03/2013	Interim	satisfactory progress
16/05/2012	Full	good

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

Recommendations

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

- ensure there are clear and effective procedures for monitoring and controlling activities of the home. (This specifically relates to ensuring that minutes from team meetings are available promptly for all members of staff.) (NMS 21.1)

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.