

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC061678
Inspector	Marian Denny
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Registered person	Care Assist Children's Services Limited
Registered person address	PO Box 261 Ormskirk L39 6WU

Responsible individual	Peter Roderick Jones
Registered manager	Edward Adams
Date of last inspection	29/08/2014

Inspection date	17/03/2015
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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 **sustained effectiveness**.

This home has sustained progress since the last inspection. The Registered Manager has responded promptly to the recommendation raised at the last inspection. Regulation 33 monitoring reports now include the views of young people's parents and relatives.

Since the last inspection, some young people have left the home. Records clearly demonstrate that the staff's planning of the moves and the work undertaken was very good. As a consequence, the young people have settled well and are happy in their new homes.

Young people continue to make good progress. They achieve positive outcomes within a safe and supportive environment. They benefit from individualised care packages and staff have a good knowledge and understanding of their needs. This ensures they provide tailored responses to young people's needs. The staff have high aspirations regardless of the complexities of the needs of young people and the challenges they may present. Staff engage appropriately to provide support and reassurance to reduce young people's anxieties and promote their welfare.

The Registered Manager has revised and improved many of the home's policies and procedures. He has also improved some of the documents used to record information about young people. Key working sessions are well recorded and clearly link the aims of the placement plans, young people's needs and any incidents that occur. The records have also developed to effectively show the progress young people have made since living in the home.

Since the last inspection, the organisation has appointed a full-time behavioural therapist. Staff are able to consult with her, if required, in order to gain specialist advice and guidance about any young person in their care. She can also undertake

direct work with the young people in the home, if necessary.

Young people continue to be involved in a variety of leisure activities, such as swimming, walking, watching DVDs, playing on their games consoles and playing football. The staff actively encourage and enable them to pursue their interests and hobbies and to enjoy them.

Staff continue to fully support young people's education. They work closely with education professionals to ensure young people have the same opportunities as their peer group to learn and develop. This enables young people to make good educational progress, achieve well and as a result their future prospects in life improve.

Safeguarding young people is a priority and central to staff's practice. Staff work very hard to support young people to keep safe. They ensure there are sufficient levels of supervision both inside and outside of the home and they fully recognise the young people's vulnerabilities. Staff clearly understand their safeguarding responsibilities and act within clear procedures to protect young people.

Partnership working is good and there is excellent communication between the staff and other services. For example, one school regularly texts staff about a young person's progress in school. Staff will also ensure regular meetings take place with schools or colleges, if there are any educational concerns. Staff have good links with health care professionals, including medical specialists and this ensures young people's physical health and emotional needs are effectively met. This close partnership ensures everyone involved with the young person work together in a consistent way. Consequently, this greatly improves outcomes for the young people.

Staff receive a wide range of training which increases their knowledge and skills in working with the young people in their care. Staff, however, have not had recent training in autism. In view of the developments that have taken place in this field this training would be beneficial as it would serve to underpin and support their practice.

The Registered Manager demonstrates a good understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of the home and continually works with staff to develop their practice. For example, in clearly evidencing the work they undertake with the young people and progress made. Both he and his team are strong advocates for the young people and work hard to ensure all young people are supported and their needs met. He keeps up-to-date with legislative changes and ensures they are implemented into practice. The whole staff team strives to ensure practice is of a high standard and the best possible outcomes achieved for the young people in their care.

Information about this children's home

The home provides care for four young people with emotional and behavioural difficulties. The home is one of four owned and managed by a limited company.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
29/08/2014	Full	good
17/01/2014	Interim	good progress
21/05/2013	Full	good
21/01/2013	Interim	good progress

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 staff's training keeps them up-to-date with professional, legal and practice developments, particularly in relation to autism. (NMS 18.1)

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.