

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC062248
Inspector	Marina Tully
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Registered person	Quality Protects Children Ltd
Registered person address	Hill House Archway Road Huyton Liverpool L36 9XB
Responsible individual	Anthony Nolan
Registered manager	POST VACANT / Joanne Byron
Date of last inspection	15/10/2014

Inspection date	09/02/2015
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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**.

The home continues to provide young people with a good standard of care and young people are making pleasing progress. Young people benefit from positive relationships with staff and on the whole with each other. They consistently report that they are happy and recognise their achievements; they feel listened to and valued by staff. This is reflected in a young person's comments: 'staff stick up for young people here, it's not just a job for them.'

Young people continue to achieve good outcomes and most are engaging with some form of education or training. For example, one young person is doing exceptionally well and has ambitions to go to university. Some are receiving home tuition, provided by the company's in-house school, which is making a noticeable difference to their educational attainment. A shortfall is in the home not consistently taking quick action to ensure young people's special educational needs are assessed. This has led to delays in identifying placements in specialist schools and colleges and securing longer term education and training arrangements.

Young people have access to a range of health services including Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) and the in-house psychologist. Staff ensure young people's attendance at health appointments and teach young people how to take responsibility for their own medical needs. Consequently, young people are benefiting from improved physical and emotional health and are better prepared to promote their own health when they move to independence. The home provides good preparation for young people's transition to adulthood. Young people are proud of their achievements and feel confident in their ability to care and provide for themselves. They develop essential skills such as shopping, cooking and budgeting. All of which enhances their chances of successful independent living.

Young people benefit from detailed risk assessments. Staff demonstrate good

knowledge of young people's needs and vulnerabilities and know how to manage risk. When young people go missing staff follow the correct reporting procedures to ensure their safe return home. Risk taking behaviour is successfully addressed with young people in regular key work sessions. A young person commented: 'Staff are there for me, they help me learn from my mistakes and support me when things go wrong.' Consequently, young people are better protected and risk taking behaviour, such as missing from home, dramatically decreases.

A shortfall was in the manager not consistently notifying all relevant bodies of incidents of potential child sexual exploitation. Despite following the correct procedures for reporting such incidents to the police and placing social worker. They had, on occasion, failed to notify Ofsted and the local authority where the home is located. This management oversight impacts more on the independent scrutiny of safeguarding practice rather than the safety and welfare of young people.

Consistent behaviour management strategies promote more socially acceptable behaviour. Minimal use of sanctions and physical intervention is testament to the positive relationships that have developed between staff and young people. This also demonstrates that young people are learning how to regulate their emotions and behaviour more appropriately. As a result, young people enjoy living in a stable, happy and settled home environment.

Young people enjoy having contact with their families and some benefit from supervised contact taking place within the home. This enables young people to sustain attachments to significant family members and provides them with a clear picture of their background and identity. A recommendation from the last inspection was in respect of staff being trained to supervise family contact, this action remains outstanding.

The home has undergone a change in management since the last inspection. The new manager took up post in November 2014. Her application to Ofsted to register as the manager for this service is currently being processed. She has over 10 year's residential child care experience and is currently undertaking the level 5 Diploma in management.

While the manager is fairly new to post, evidence gathered at this inspection demonstrates her capacity to identify the home's strengths and areas for development. For example, the manager's quarterly monitoring of the service has been reviewed and the new framework she plans to introduce is more robust. This will be tested in the future manager's monitoring reports which are sent to Ofsted. The monthly monitoring of the home is detailed, evaluative and provides effective quality assurance. Young people's meeting records, as well as their comments, demonstrate that their views are regularly sought and they are included in the development and day to day running of the home.

The manager demonstrates a commitment to partnership working and ensures

regular liaison with social workers and other stakeholders. A professional from the authorities' education department said 'partnership working is great. I have had no problem with the home's communication.' Furthermore, the manager provided sufficient evidence of her chasing outstanding care plans and review documents. Consequently, young people's files now accurately reflect local authorities' plans and intended outcomes. This ensures that the home is working to the correct care plans and actions from reviews are clearly documented.

All but one of the recommendations raised at the last inspection have been met. Young people now benefit from more community based activities; up-to-date care plans on their files; and they are better informed of management decisions. As mentioned earlier, staff training on supervising family contact remains outstanding. The manager proposed that this training is scheduled for the week following this inspection.

Information about this children's home

The home offers care and accommodation for up to four young people with emotional or behavioural difficulties. The home is one of several owned by a private company.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
15/10/2014	Full	good
18/02/2014	Interim	good progress
19/07/2013	Full	good
14/01/2013	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
11 (2001)	ensure that the children's home is conducted so as to promote and make proper provision for the education of children accommodated there. This is specifically in relation to referrals for special educational needs assessments and young people's integration into local schools and colleges (Regulation 11 (1) (b))	02/03/2015
30 (2001)	ensure if any of the events listed in column 1 of the table in Schedule 5 takes place, the registered person shall without delay notify the persons indicated in respect of the event in column 2 of the table. (Regulation 30 (1))	02/03/2015

Recommendations

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

- ensure staff have appropriate training, supervision and support if they are required to supervise and facilitate contact. (NMS 9.2)

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.