

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC062651
Inspector	Rosie Davie
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Registered person	Care Focus Limited
Registered person address	Care Focus Ltd 18 Bury Street STOWMARKET Suffolk IP14 1HH
Responsible individual	Jean Lloyd
Registered manager	Jane Mary Burch
Date of last inspection	17/12/2014

Inspection date	10/03/2015
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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 **improved effectiveness**.

At the last full inspection this home received a judgment of good with outstanding outcomes. Overall this home has improved in effectiveness. Managers have met the previous requirement and recommendations. This inspection makes recommendations in relation to continuity of staff supervision and use of sanctions.

Young people continue to make significant progress in this home. All attend education and some are achieving 100% attendance. Staff read with young people and they encourage them to take an interest in social affairs. This provides stimulation and helps to broaden young people's general knowledge. One social worker spoken to said: 'I am thoroughly impressed. My young person has changed.'

Children and young people have made positive transitions to other destinations. One young person recently discharged wrote a poem for the staff team expressing her acknowledgement and gratitude for their continuous support and care. This means that young people know the difference that living in the home is making. One young person said: 'living here is good for me, I am getting the education I need and I get really good support from staff. I like it here a lot.'

Young people receive help and encouragement to explore their identity. This teaches young people about diversity and places value on acceptance.

Young people can access therapeutic support. They receive emotional support to understand their circumstances. Where reflected in care planning, they receive help to rebuild relationships with families. Staff assist parents and relatives visits to the home. This is positive for young people and helps them to maintain significant attachments.

The Registered Manager formally responds to any complaints raised by young

people. The frequency of physical interventions is decreasing. Young people do not go missing. Staff work in partnership with young people to identify rewards and incentives to promote good behaviour. However, some sanctions sampled were ineffective and some did not reflect the home's ethos and approach to caring for children.

Staff remain focused and committed to achieving outstanding outcomes for children and young people. They continue to receive support and advice however supervision has not been consistent for all members of the team.

The Registered Manager is aware of the strengths and weaknesses of the home. She provides direction and guidance to the staff team and remains committed to making further improvements to raise the standard of care for children and young people.

Information about this children's home

This home is one of a small group of homes run by an independent provider. This home offers care for up to four children and young people. Education is available within the setting. Therapeutic services are available for the children and young people to directly access.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
17/12/2014	Full	good
20/03/2014	Interim	good progress
29/08/2013	Full	good
15/01/2013	Interim	satisfactory 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 all staff are consistently provided with regular supervision (NMS 19.4)
- ensure all staff understand, share and implement the home's ethos, philosophy and approach to caring for children. (NMS 3.4)

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.