

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC063318
Inspector	Michelle Edge
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Registered person	Good Foundations Limited
Registered person address	6 Tower Quays Tower Road Birkenhead Merseyside CH41 1BP
Responsible individual	Andrew Mannix
Registered manager	Helen Rebecca Beaumont
Date of last inspection	24/06/2014

Inspection date	28/01/2015
Previous inspection	outstanding
Enforcement action since last inspection	none

This inspection

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

At the last full inspection in June, the home was judge as outstanding overall. One recommendation regarding E- safety and young people accessing the internet has not been fully addressed. Staff training is pending as is the development of policy and procedure regarding young people safely accessing social media and the internet. During this visit shortfalls have been observed in both safeguarding and education. This means that outcomes for young people have declined.

Adequate and appropriate staffing levels have not consistently been sustained. On some occasions Staff without any previous knowledge of the young people or their needs have been left in sole charge. Consequently this could compromise the safety and well-being of young people. While the Registered manager has responded promptly to safeguarding concerns and reported these to external agencies, records did not give an accurate and up to date account. The outcome of an investigation also lacked clarity and failed to follow the homes own procedures. As a result this does not demonstrate adequately that allegations or suspicions of harm are handled consistently in a way that provides effective protection for young people. In addition, some staff were unclear of the procedure to follow regarding the action to take to contact external agencies if allegations were about senior management. As a result some staff lack sufficient awareness to fully safeguard young people.

Educational attainment has declined. Education plans are limited and young people are not actively encouraged and supported to achieve their full potential. For example, if young people refuse to attend school there is no clear structure or formal plan around their day. This does not enable young people to maximise their educational opportunities and social development.

A wide range of leisure activities are on offer to young people and they have the opportunity to take part in the development of their activity plans. However, young

people are not guided around making appropriate choices and were taken to local amusement arcades on several occasions to spend their pocket monies. This does not promote age appropriate peer activities and did not take into account any assessment of risk to the young person.

Young people benefit from structured and agreed contact arrangements with families and those people who are important in their lives. Plans are regularly monitored and where progress has been observed, contact has gradually been increased in consultation with all relevant professionals. One young person stated 'the staff helped me with my sister and I can go more often, its great.' This enables young people to maintain positive relationships with their families and develop their identity.

While the manager has completed internal monthly checks and these have been sent to Ofsted the monitoring has not identified the shortfalls highlighted within the inspection. More robust systems are needed to ensure the safety and well-being of young people is promoted at all times: including Staff completing E-Safety training and the further development of policy and procedure regarding young people safely accessing social media and the internet.

Information about this children's home

This is a children's home for up to three young people with emotional or behavioural difficulties or learning disabilities. The home is managed by a private company.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
24/06/2014	Full	outstanding
18/03/2014	Interim	satisfactory progress
20/12/2013	Full	outstanding
25/03/2013	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
25 (2001)	The registered person shall ensure that there are at all times a sufficient number of qualified, competent and experienced persons working at the children's home (Regulation 25 (1))	31/03/2015
16 (2001)	ensure the procedure set out in this regulation is understood by all staff, written records that are kept are clear and investigations into allegations or suspicions of harm and handled fairly, quickly and consistently (Regulation 16(2))	31/03/2015
18 (2001)	promote the educational achievement of children accommodated at the home and in particular ensure that the home is organised so as to further children's participation in education, including regular attendance at school. (Regulation 18 (1) (b))	31/03/2015

Recommendations

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

- ensure the home provides a comfortable and homely environment and is well maintained and decorated (NMS 10.3)
- ensure children take part in appropriate peer activities as agreed by the home's staff in a way similar to how a reasonable parent might reach agreement with their children, taking into account any assessment of risk to the child; in particular ensure children have suitable access to social media and the internet and staff receive relevant training. (NMS 7.5)

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.