

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC063814
Inspector	Michael Mulvaney
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Registered person	Break
Registered person address	Davison House 1 Montague Road SHERINGHAM Norfolk NR26 8WN
Responsible individual	Hilary Bridget Richards
Registered manager	Janet North
Date of last inspection	17/12/2014

Inspection date	19/03/2015
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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**.

The Registered Manager has met the one requirement made at the previous inspection in December 2014, which was in respect of updating risk assessments for the young people when the group changes. The risk assessments now reflect the complex needs of the young people and how these risks may affect other young people both as a group and as individuals. This improves the staff's understanding of the young people's needs and as a result improves the care they receive.

The provider has updated the Statement of Purpose which now clearly describes the services that the home provides to families and to placing social workers. Young people are succeeding in their school and education placement given their individual needs. They are making considerable progress towards their educational goals. Staff are consistently supportive of young people's education. This assists young people to achieve and reach their educational potential. As a result This will help to improve opportunities in their adult life.

Young people make good use of their time attending regular activities such as the cinema, community activities or voluntary work. These activities encourage improvements in self-esteem and confidence. It also enables young people to make and sustain positive friendships outside of the home. The young people who are on pathway plans for independence are developing skills to make the transition to adult life, this includes shopping and cooking with the staff regularly.

Staff are supporting contact which has resulted in levels of contact increasing and some young people enjoying overnight stays with family members. This also includes staff actively supporting rehabilitation plans for young people. As a consequence these plans are likely to have a positive outcome.

Young people have positive relationships with the staff. There are regular key

worker sessions which promote good relationships and help young people come to terms with issues in their lives. External therapists support these sessions to keep the focus on addressing the young people's needs. There is use of positive rewards to improve behaviour and sanctions used as part of a restorative approach which help to encourage positive behaviour. Training is provided to all staff to use de-escalation methods, which are effective. As a result no physical intervention has occurred since the last inspection.

Young people say they are safe and there are robust safeguarding processes in place. The provider has effective safe recruitment processes to ensure that suitable checks are complete prior to individuals working in the home. Young people say they can talk to staff if they have any worries or concerns and they know how to make a complaint. Consultation takes place with young people in a variety of ways and there is good written information available about how to raise concerns. This enables young people to access a range of internal and external support.

A key strength of this home is the commitment and skill of the staff. The staff are very knowledgeable about the individual needs of young people. There are individual packages of care provided to the young people through the use of a local external therapist and good partnership working with multi-agency professionals. This gives young people an opportunity to begin to deal the difficulties arising from their past. It also provides them with a better opportunity to reach their full potential. Families, social workers and education workers speak highly of the level of commitment from the staff and have no concerns about the welfare needs of the children.

Staff are aware of the processes to follow should there be a safeguarding issue. They are also aware of the whistle blowing policy should they have concerns about practices which could place young people at risk. When concerns have arisen, the Registered Manager has consulted with the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) and robustly investigated allegations and complaints.

The Registered Manager has systems in place to notify relevant agencies, including Ofsted, of significant events to ensure the protection of young people by multi-agency decision making. There has been one recent notification to Ofsted where action taken was appropriate and procedures followed to protect young people. The Registered Manager shared information with the LADO and the outcome was no further action is required. There have been no complaints made to the provider since the previous inspection.

The Registered Manager and deputy manager work well together and display strong leadership and management skills. There are regular audits of the young people's records to ensure they are up to date. The internal and external monitoring helps them to measure the standard of care and address any shortfall. Supervision takes place regularly for the staff and this assists a well-trained group of staff to fulfil their roles and responsibilities skilfully and compassionately. There are no regulatory requirements or recommendations set as a result of this inspection.

Information about this children's home

This children's home provides care and accommodation for up to four children and young people with emotional and behavioural difficulties, aged between seven and 17 years and is owned by a registered charity.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
17/12/2014	Full	good
04/03/2014	Interim	good progress
07/01/2014	Full	good
07/01/2013	Interim	good progress

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.