

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC064027
Inspector	Michelle Spruce
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Registered person	Delam Care Limited
Registered person address	Metropolitan House, 5th Floor 3 Darkes Lane POTTERS BAR Hertfordshire EN6 1AG
Responsible individual	Mark O'Donnell
Registered manager	Karen Patricia Danby
Date of last inspection	17/12/2014

Inspection date	12/03/2015
Previous inspection	good
Enforcement action since last inspection	There has been no enforcement action since the last inspection.

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 was last inspected in December 2014. The overall judgement was good. Since the last inspection, the Registered Manager has addressed one of the two requirements made and one recommendation. As a result of this inspection, the home is judged to have sustained effectiveness. One requirement and recommendation has been raised.

All staff except the Registered Manager now receive annual appraisal. This enables them to gain feedback about their practice and develop plans for personal improvement. The Statement of Purpose has recently been amended. Copies are sent to Ofsted in line with regulation. This keeps Ofsted up-to-date and informed of any changes. The supervision record has improved to include the date, length and time of the supervision. Staff have not received sufficient training in supervising contact. Although they continue to support supervised contact, the Registered Manager has been unsuccessful in gaining training for staff.

Since the last inspection there has been no new admission or discharges. Young people are prepared for leaving care in a planned and sensitive manner. Staff work alongside parents, social workers and transition teams to ensure when the time comes to leave care, young people can do so smoothly.

The Registered Manager safely recruits staff. New staff to the home are supported and supervised well. This ensures consistency in the quality of care young people receive. Where complaints about the home are raised, the Registered Manager has taken appropriate action in line with local safeguarding children procedures. As a result, complaints are taken seriously and dealt with fairly.

Young people's emotional, social, physical and psychological needs continue to be

met. Their complex needs are supported by well-trained, competent and skilled staff. Staff work in close partnership with health professionals, parents and school to ensure their well-being is maximised. As a result, young people continue to thrive. A compliment received from a parent said, 'Thank the wonderful staff for their professionalism and care'.

Young people are safe in the home. High staffing levels provide good supervision to vulnerable young people. As a result, young people do not go missing and remain safe and protected from harm.

Routine fire drills and tests of equipment are undertaken. This keeps all those who live, work and visit the home safe in the event of a fire. The laundry room has exposed pipe work from the boiler which is located above a sink. This presents a risk of injury from hot pipes.

Information about this children's home

This is a privately owned children's home that provides care and accommodation for up to six children and young people, who have a learning disability.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
17/12/2014	Full	good
26/03/2014	Interim	good progress
03/10/2013	Full	good
16/01/2013	Interim	good 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
27 (2001)	ensure that all persons employed receive appropriate training and appraisal. (Regulation 27(4)(a))	30/04/2015

Recommendations

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

- ensure avoidable hazards are removed as is consistent with a domestic setting. (NMS 10.3)

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.