

Children's homes - interim inspection

Inspection date	27/01/2016
Unique reference number	SC064182
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home
Registered person	Lodge Group Care UK Limited
Registered person address	87 High Street, HEATHFIELD, East Sussex, TN21 8JA

Responsible individual	Jeffrey Darnell
Registered manager	Alina Opris
Inspector	Barnaby Dowell

Inspection date	27/01/2016
Previous inspection judgement	Good
Enforcement action since last inspection	None
This inspection	
The effectiveness of the home and the progress and experiences of children and young people since the most recent full inspection The home was judged to be Good at the full inspection. At this interim inspection, Ofsted judge that it has Sustained effectiveness. The full inspection resulted in one requirement and three recommendations being made. The home has addressed these effectively. There are no requirements or recommendations resulting from this inspection. The home remains settled with no young people having left since the last inspection. It remains a caring and nurturing environment. Feedback from professionals remains positive with one professional stating 'The staff are very caring and respectful towards the young people in their care. They also communicate well with professionals and the wider network of professionals.' The Registered Manager returned to the home following maternity leave in January 2016. The interim manager remains working with the home as an occupational therapist. This consistency, coupled with the excellent input from the independent visitor remains integral to the future development of the home. Staff morale remains high in the home. Supervision and appraisal is valued. One staff member comments, 'It's the tiny things that managers do, like sending motivational messages each day that really support us.' Case recording has improved in the home. Files now offer clear behavioural management strategies for each young person. All staff members are familiar with these. Strategies remain informed by regular recording of key work sessions. The improved quality of information has helped to decrease the frequency of restraints and keep young people safe. There is a strong safeguarding culture in the home. Monitoring of the young people remains supported by a minimum of one to one staff supervision in the home and two to one while in the community. Furthermore, positive multi-agency working and regular reviews ensures that medication levels are appropriate and behaviour remains good in the home.	

Where it is in accordance with care plans, the manager and staff engage family members in their children's lives. Staff promote, facilitate, and supervise contact, they also support families to prepare for young people returning to their care. This means there is a cohesive approach to a young person's transition, which minimises disruption for the young people.

Staff act proactively to support young people. They recently liaised with a community nurse to facilitate an appointment for a genetic screening to occur in the home. This negated the need to attend hospital and minimised distress for the young person.

Managers have developed relationships with key partner agencies. Staff now access a broad range of training on topics such as child sexual exploitation provided by the local authority. This develops the staff knowledge base and supports the care of young people. In addition, managers now liaise with a local charity to allow young people access to a specialist youth club. This supports the development of social skills.

The participation of young people has improved. Staff use the PECS (Picture Exchange Communication System) following each restraint to ascertain feelings. The residents meeting is now activity based and more meaningful for young people. This assists in developing peer and staff relationships in the home.

Young people respond well to a new rewards system in the home. In partnership with parents, staff set daily goals linked to the development of independence skills and the care plan. Staff support engagement with immediate feedback and encouragement on completion.

The home continues to be maintained to a good standard. Regular consultation with key professionals and thorough risk assessments support a safe environment. The quiet room now contains soft lighting, which avoids unnecessary discomfort to young people using this area of the home.

Information about this children's home

- This privately run home provides accommodation and care for up to six young people with learning disabilities. The service provides both long term and short break placements.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
13/10/2015	Full	Good
19/12/2014	Interim	Sustained effectiveness
06/10/2014	Full	Good
04/03/2014	Interim	Good progress

What the inspection judgements mean

At the interim inspection 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

Inspectors have looked closely at the experiences and progress of children and young people living in the children's home. Inspectors considered the quality of work and the difference adults make to the lives of children and young people. They read case files, watched how professional staff work with children, young people and each other and discussed the effectiveness of help and care given to children and young people. Wherever possible, they talked to children, young people and their families. In addition the inspectors have tried to understand what the children's home knows about how well it is performing, how well it is doing and what difference it is making for the children and young people who it is trying to help, protect and look after.

This inspection focused on the effectiveness of the home and the progress and experiences of children and young people since the most recent full inspection.

This 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 Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015 and the *Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards*.

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