

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC065789
Inspector	Marian Denny
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	Robert Leslie Jones
Date of last inspection	07/10/2014

Inspection date	26/03/2015
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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 previous inspection in July 2014, the overall quality rating for this home was judged as good. Since then the home has improved and has therefore been judged as having improved its effectiveness. Two recommendations for improvement were made at the last inspection, which related to ensuring sanctions and rewards for behaviour are clear, reasonable and fair and understood by all staff and children. This was with specific reference to ensuring children and young people are clear about the reasons for their rewards and have the opportunity to discuss and comment on this. The second recommendation was to ensure young people's records were up-to-date, with specific reference to a recent photograph of children or young people.

The Registered Manager has responded promptly to the recommendations raised at the last inspection. Young people are now clear about the reasons for their rewards and records clearly evidence that young people have the opportunity to discuss and comment on this. All the young people's records were seen and were up-to-date, including recent photographs.

Since the last inspection, no young people have left the home. However there are excellent transitions in place for a young person who is to move to the adult services. Despite the fact that this move will not take place for at least four months, the placement has been selected, introductory visits have been planned and recently started. There is excellent communication between the professionals, the young person and the family as to the appropriateness and effectiveness of these transitional plans. This ensures the young person's welfare needs are being appropriately met.

Staff have the welfare of all the young people at the heart of their practice. Consequently, young people are cared for in a warm, safe and extremely caring and

nurturing environment by highly competent and dedicated staff. This results in them totally trusting the staff and feeling very able to share information about their past and current difficulties.

The service adopts a very holistic approach to supporting the young people and their families.

Staff provide extremely good support and reassurance to reduce their anxieties and promote their welfare. They do not use physical restraint in this home. Instead young people's positive behaviour is promoted, recognised and rewarded through the use of personalised incentives. In situations, where it is necessary to use sanctions, they are always fair and proportionate. This ensures that young people are encouraged to display and maintain socially acceptable behaviour.

The service adopts a very holistic approach to supporting the young people and their families. Young people clearly achieve extremely positive outcomes within a very safe and supportive environment. They benefit from individualised care packages and staff have an excellent knowledge and understanding of their needs. This ensures they provide tailored responses to young people. Staff also have high aspirations for their young people, regardless their needs. Staff engage very effectively with all the young people in their care and provide excellent support to them.

Young people continue to be actively involved in a variety of leisure activities, such as football, watching television and DVDs, going to the cinema, eating out in restaurants and playing with their games consoles. The staff team work hard to encourage young people's participation in these leisure activities and ensure that young people enjoy their leisure time.

Young people said that they are very happy living in the home. They trust and like the staff. They say they also have the opportunity and are able to talk to them about anything that is troubling them. They are also extremely positive about the Registered Manager, whom they say is extremely supportive to them.

Safeguarding young people is a priority of the staff team and central to their practice. Staff fully understand their safeguarding responsibilities and procedures, which they always follow. As a result, safeguarding arrangements are strong and staff always ensure young people are supported to keep safe. The young people said they feel safe, are well cared for and are fully supported to keep safe. They also said 'no bullying takes place'. Staffing levels are always appropriate to meet the needs of the young people living in this home.

Partnership working is extremely good, with regular, qualitative contact with all the professionals involved with the home's young people. For example, there are regular meetings with the school if there are educational concerns and other relevant professionals. The home also works very effectively with professionals, where there

have been concerns about internet safety.

The Registered Manager demonstrates a good understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of the home and continually works with staff to develop their practice in clearly evidencing the work they undertake with the young people. He is a strong advocate and works tirelessly to ensure all young people are supported to meet their needs. He keeps up-to-date with legislative changes which he ensures are implemented into practice. The Registered Manager places a premium on staff development and ensures all staff are up to date with any professional and legal developments. Both the Registered Manager and the staff continually strive for outstanding practice and outcomes for young people.

Information about this children's home

This is a privately owned children's home registered for three young people with emotional or behavioural difficulties.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
07/10/2014	Full	good
13/03/2014	Interim	good progress
10/12/2013	Full	good
18/03/2013	Interim	satisfactory 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.