

Children's homes - interim inspection

Inspection date	08/03/2016
Unique reference number	SC067895
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home
Registered person	Channels and Choices Kent LLP
Registered person address	31, St. Georges Place, Canterbury, Kent, CT1 1XD

Responsible individual	Martin Scholfield
Registered manager	Katie Smissen
Inspector	Helen Lee

Inspection date	08/03/2016
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 This home was judged Good at the full inspection. At this interim inspection Ofsted judge that it has Improved effectiveness. The requirement regarding succession and transition arrangements for the Registered Manager, and the recommendation made regarding supervision sessions including safeguarding discussions, have been fully implemented. Since the last inspection all three young people remain living at the home. They continue to make good progress in all aspects of their lives. Reward charts, devised with young people, incentivise them to maintain positive behaviours and learn new skills. For example, one young person is now able to manage their personal hygiene routines independently. A parent commented that they were 'very pleased with the progress their child was making'. Health professionals work closely with the home. One stated that a young person 'is growing up, his personality and character are coming through more and more'. Staff show considerable commitment to the young people in their care. This has been particularly noteworthy in the support given to maintain their education placements and to achieve high levels of attendance. Education outcomes for all the young people remain good. Young people actively participate in daily meetings in which they are confident to express their feelings and opinions. Staff foster respect and harmony, the young people have good relationships with each other. They enjoy activities in the community, for example, weekly theatre and stage school, swimming lessons, Sunday school, and Jazz school. They also enjoy celebrating their birthdays with friends. Young people participate enthusiastically in charity work, for example, Macmillan coffee mornings. Young people sustain positive behaviour and have learnt new coping strategies for when they are angry or distressed. As a result there are no incidents of risk taking behaviours in the home, no use of restraints and a very low number of sanctions given; this leads to greater stability. Staff benefit from recent safeguarding, child sexual exploitation and Prevent training.	

Staff closely supervise young people so they do not go missing. Staff are able to demonstrate sound knowledge of the missing from home policy, their roles and responsibilities. There are regular fire drills and young people take responsibility themselves for training each other at their daily meetings. Supervision is regular and now specifically discusses safeguarding, allowing staff the space to reflect on young people's safety. Recruitment processes are robust; checks completed demonstrate that care staff are suitably vetted prior to employment. Young people are involved in the recruitment process.

The current manager was appointed in July 2015 having previously been a Registered Manager elsewhere in the organisation since November 2012. She has a Level Five qualification in Leadership and Management for Residential Child Care. There is now a clear succession strategy regarding the management of the home which is reflected in the statement of purpose. The manager is proactively involved in monitoring individual care arrangements, which supports the good progress made by the young people. She is very aware of the progress the young people make and of any limitations or specific issues for each. The manager is a strong leader who is committed to driving forward change and developing the service.

Information about this children's home

The home is registered to provide care and accommodation for up to three young people with emotional and/or behavioural difficulties. The home is operated by a private organisation. It offers therapeutic residential care.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
21/12/2015	Full	Good
11/03/2015	Interim	Sustained effectiveness
07/01/2015	Full	Good
02/01/2014	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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