

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC068803
Inspector	Lucy Chapman
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Registered person	Ethelbert Specialist Homes Limited
Registered person address	Cheesemans Farmhouse Alland Grange Lane, Manston Ramsgate Kent CT12 5BZ
Responsible individual	Leslie Peter Davenport
Registered manager	Sidney William Coffin
Date of last inspection	02/10/2014

Inspection date	11/02/2015
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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**.

Young people make good progress and say that they are happy in this home. The home environment is well equipped and nicely decorated. Young people benefit from the large outside space with gym, football, snooker and table tennis facilities. One young person said: 'It's good here, I enjoy it. I like the garden; it's massive and we have good times playing football and basketball out there.'

The home is led by a committed and experienced Registered Manager who has recently achieved the Level 5 management qualification. Staff changes have occurred recently with three staff leaving and three new staff coming in to post. This change was well managed with the existing core staff team being used to support the induction of new staff and to minimise the impact on young people. Staff describe a working environment where they are well trained and supported.

Staff put energy and enthusiasm into their work with young people and very positive relationships between young people and staff are evident. Young people have regular keywork sessions and say they are able to talk openly to staff. Young people have individual plans in place to help them to progress in targeted areas, and work towards a monthly reward scheme. Young people are encouraged to think about their progress and to take pride in their achievements. One young person said: 'I have changed; when I first came here I was really terrible, now I'm much better.'

Incidents of restraint and young people going missing from the home are minimal. Any safeguarding issues are followed up appropriately, and young people feel safe and are safe within this home. Sanctions are appropriate and proportional and are designed to enable young people to reflect on their behaviour. A young person who damaged property was asked to wash the home's car as reparation. Staff used this activity as an opportunity to talk with the young person about their behaviour. The young person commented: 'It was fun; it helped me to put what happened behind

me.'

Young people's behaviour improves due to the strategies in place within this home. Young people are supported in their education and staff liaise with young people's schools daily. Staff provide daily support in school to one young person to encourage his engagement with education. Young people are encouraged to explore their interests and to join after school and weekend clubs. Young people are encouraged to input ideas into menu planning, and to cook meals. A popular international food night allows young people to learn about other countries and cultures.

Young people benefit from good communication and cooperative working between staff and parents. Staff contact all parents weekly and positive relationships have been established with social workers and other professionals involved in young people's lives. Positive feedback about young people's progress has been reported by parents and social workers. Partnership working is a strength within this home.

Placement plans, risk assessments and behaviour plans contain information to support the care of young people. In file checks some information was missing or required updating. One recently-admitted young person did not have a placement plan on file. Another young person had had a change of medical diagnosis and medication, which had not been updated across all file records resulting in inconsistent and confusing recording.

The recommendations from the previous Ofsted inspection have been actioned by both the Registered Manager and the senior management of the organisation.

Information about this children's home

This home is one of several homes belonging to the organisation. The home is registered to provide care and accommodation for up to a maximum of four young people, who may have emotional and behavioural difficulties.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
02/10/2014	Full	good
13/02/2014	Interim	good progress
20/08/2013	Full	good
07/01/2013	Interim	satisfactory 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
11 (2001)	The registered person shall ensure that the children's home is conducted so as to promote proper provision for the safeguarding and welfare of children accommodated there - in particular that care plans are completed in a timely fashion. Regulation 11(1)(a)	06/03/2015

Recommendations

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

- There is a written record of all medication, treatment and first aid given to children during their placement - in particular that file information in

relation to medication is updated and consistent. (NMS 6.15)

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.