

Children's homes - interim inspection

Inspection date	20/10/2015
Unique reference number	SC068803
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home
Registered person	Ethelbert Specialist Homes Limited
Registered person address	Ethelbert Specialist Homes, Cheesemans Farmhouse, Alland Grange Lane, Manston, RAMSGATE, CT12 5BZ

Responsible individual	Leslie Davenport
Registered manager	Sidney Coffin
Inspector	Anna Williams

Inspection date	20/10/2015
Previous inspection judgement	Sustained effectiveness
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 last full inspection. At this interim inspection Ofsted judge that it has sustained effectiveness. Children continue to make progress and they receive a good standard of care. Children say they feel safe and speak positively about living in the home. They all immensely enjoyed the summer break to Wales. Photos around the home capture them taking part in the holiday activities like caving, archery and kayaking. One child commented they liked 'playing football in the garden with the staff and other kids'. Regular participation in local community groups such as football continues. This builds relationships with individuals outside of the home and encourages personal interests and talent. The property and extensive grounds are well-maintained. One child told the inspector they use the in-house gym to keep fit. Children were observed playing sports in the gardens together. Children engage regularly in physical activity which benefits their health. Two children have lost weight appropriately since living at this home, supporting their physical wellbeing. Bedrooms are personalised. They demonstrate children have a sense of belonging in the home with many possessions, photos and achievements on display. Windows on the first floor have a metal bar across them to restrict their opening. This compromises the otherwise homely presentation to the house. A recommendation is set to consider alternative ways of ensuring children's safety. Six restraints have taken place in the home since July 2015. Children are debriefed afterwards and records capture their views. The Registered Manager monitors the records but does not formally debrief staff involved. Staff debrief themselves. This is not in line with regulation. Opportunities for someone not involved in the restraint to review their use, are therefore lost. Since the previous inspection, due to the needs of one child in the home, the pantry door is locked when children are present in the home. While there is a risk assessment in place about locking the door, it does not consider the impact on the other children. There are no clear steps to work towards reducing the locking of this space. As a result, this measure affects all children in their access to food and	

their independence.

Case files show that health and medication information is now kept up to date. This ensures staff refer to accurate information at all times. Care plans are now in place for all children, with staff adding progress and monthly updates. This ensures each child has a clear plan for staff to follow. A positive addition to recording systems are contact files. They clearly document discussions and correspondence with placing social workers, family members, education provisions and the police. These demonstrate good partnership working takes place regularly.

Staff provide children with good levels of emotional support during significant events in their lives. Any anxiety is lessened through regular one to one time with staff, where children freely ask questions and hear reassurance. Children benefit from on-going intervention from external therapists, which assists their emotional well-being. Staff maintain clear and appropriate boundaries and expectations. As a result, incidents involving aggression have reduced in length and frequency. Children continue to maintain, and in some cases, re-build contact with family members. This helps them keep attachments to those important to them.

Children's attendance at school provisions remains good. Some children have progressed from home tutoring to full time education after periods without education prior to admission. This benefits their learning and development now and in their future.

Young people who move on to the next stage in their lives are well-prepared. Good quality life story work celebrates young people's time living in the home. Staff plan moves with young people. They offer young people effective practical and emotional support. As a result, transitions are successful. Children keep in touch with former residents and meet up occasionally. This promotes friendships and positive attachments.

Staff feel well-supported by the Registered Manager. One staff member commented 'I really enjoy it here, I get supervision and it's organised and structured. The manager is helpful and approachable. He develops me as a staff member and challenges me to get better'.

Information about this children's home

This children's home is registered to provide care and accommodation for up to 4 children with emotional and behavioural needs. It is run by a private organisation.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
11/02/2015	Interim	Sustained effectiveness
02/10/2014	Full	Good
13/02/2014	Interim	Good progress
20/08/2013	Full	Good

What does the children's home need to do to improve?

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 (England) Regulations 2015 and the *Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards*. The registered person(s) must comply with the given timescales.

Requirement	Due date
The registered person must ensure that any limitation placed on a child's privacy or access to any area of the home's premises— (i) is intended to safeguard each child accommodated in the home; (ii) is necessary and proportionate; (iii) is kept under review and, if necessary, revised; and (iv) allows children as much freedom as is possible when balanced against the need to protect them and keep them safe (Regulation 21(c)(i - iv))	28/12/2015
The registered person must ensure that within 48 hours of the use of the measure, the registered person, or a person who is authorised by the registered person to do so ("the authorised person") has spoken to the user about the measure. (Regulation 35(3)(b)(i))	28/12/2015

Recommendations

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

Ensure any necessary adaptations made for health and safety reasons maintain a domestic rather than 'institutional' impression, with particular reference to the window bars. (The Guide to the Quality Standards, page 15, paragraph 3.9)

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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