

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC356864
Inspector	Sarah Oldham
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Registered person	Time-Out Childrens Homes Limited
Registered person address	Timeout Childrens Homes Ltd, Unit 2 Mill Fold, Ripponden SOWERBY BRIDGE West Yorkshire HX6 4DH
Responsible individual	Debbie Rowlands
Registered manager	Alison Jane Heskett
Date of last inspection	17/12/2014

Inspection date	19/03/2015
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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 **sustained effectiveness**.

Since the last inspection staff have continued to provide young people with good levels of care and support enabling them to have improved outcomes in some areas.

Staff ensure young people's needs are clearly identified in their individual placement plans. These plans, which link in with therapeutic plans, are kept under review and enable clear progress to be recorded as well as aspirations for future progression.

Young people have, overall, formed positive attachments with staff and this has enabled them to feel secure and to make progress. For example, attendance at school has significantly improved and enabled them to gain positive educational outcomes to enhance their future life chances.

Health care needs of young people continue to be supported well. All young people are registered with health care professionals and attend appointments to promote their general health. Additionally, they have input from the organisation's therapeutic service. These measures ensure that young people's physical, mental and psychological needs are well met.

Young people say they feel safe at the home and can approach staff if they are unhappy, worried or concerned about something. They know how to make a complaint and feel confident it will be addressed fairly. They also have access to independent visitors and children's rights services if they require additional support to express their views. Missing from home incidents have decreased and this indicates young people feel secure and happy within the home. When a young person has been missing from home, staff actively search local areas and known places where young people may go. They also endeavour to contact them on a regular basis by telephone and follow agreed protocols and individual risk assessments for each young person. Records are maintained of these incidents.

However, some recording does not reflect clearly all the ongoing attempts to make contact.

Strategies are in place to help young people manage their behaviours. However, over the past few months there has been an increase in incidents which have led to police involvement. Staff have worked in partnership with the police and other agencies to support young people, thereby promoting the stability of placement and to ensure the young people receive continuing support to manage their behaviours in a positive manner.

The Registered Manager ensures notifications of significant events as required by regulations are made within agreed timescales. She also liaises with the local authority designated officer (LADO) on any allegations or safeguarding concerns. This ensures open and transparent working to promote the best interests of the young people.

The Registered Manager and staff are continually looking at ways to improve the service and outcomes for young people. Training and development for staff is ongoing along with regular supervision and team meetings. This enables staff to provide consistent support for young people. Recommendations made at the last inspection have been addressed. The manager undertakes robust internal monitoring of the service and this along with external independent visits continues to ensure the home is providing effective support to improve overall outcomes for young people.

Information about this children's home

The home is a privately run children's home, which provides care and accommodation for up to two young people who may have emotional and/or behavioural difficulties.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
17/12/2014	Full	good
13/02/2014	Interim	satisfactory progress
24/05/2013	Full	good
24/01/2013	Interim	satisfactory progress

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

Recommendations

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

- ensure written records kept by the home when a child goes missing detail action taken by staff. This is in particular reference to recording the number and times staff try to contact the young person during their absence (NMS 5.10)

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.