

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC357133
Inspector	Angela Whiteley
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Registered person	Social Care Services (Clayton) Limited
Registered person address	31 Shaw Road STOCKPORT Cheshire SK4 4AG

Responsible individual	Stephen Marx Davitt
Registered manager	Raymond Harry Ashton
Date of last inspection	24/07/2014

Inspection date	05/01/2015
Previous inspection	adequate
Enforcement action since last inspection	none

This inspection

This home was judged adequate at the last full inspection. At this interim inspection Ofsted judge that it has **sustained effectiveness**.

Since the last full inspection the service has maintained the quality of care and outcomes for young people. There were four requirements and six recommendations made at the last inspection. The Registered Manager has made satisfactory progress in addressing all the requirements and most of the recommendations. This demonstrates a commitment to improving the service provided.

The home has made progress in other areas, which has had positive outcomes for some young people. For example, young people have benefited from better engagement with education. Some have been supported to return to local schools having made good progress with home tutoring. Others have benefited from improved contact arrangements. Young people have opportunities to take part in a wide range of activities and hobbies and others engage productively with therapeutic interventions. Some young people are learning to take responsibility for their behaviours. As a result, their behaviour has significantly improved and serious incidents and those requiring sanctions or physical intervention have reduced.

Most young people settle quickly in the home and confirm they feel safe. They benefit from clear routines and boundaries. They have developed strong relationships with an experienced and stable staff team. Young people's views and wishes are central to the planning and day-to-day running of the home and they feel listened to. However, not all young people have access to an independent advocate to help them give their views at their review meetings, particularly where they may wish to challenge their care plan.

Some young people come to the home with high risk behaviours and continue to receive high levels of supervision and support from staff, which is in line with the placing authority care plan. While young people are encouraged to develop appropriate independence skills within the home, some do not have an opportunity

to develop independent skills outside the home as they are closely supervised by staff. The Registered Manager has plans in place to address this with the placing authority in a structured way, which will ensure the safety and welfare of young people.

Young people benefit from the effective application of policies, procedures, systems and practices, which help staff to safeguard and promote their welfare. However, there is no agreed policy in place in respect of the use of electronic monitoring devices, which are in use at night to ensure young people are kept safe. These measures are not included in individual placement plans and require the consent of parents, young people and the placing authority. These shortfalls are procedural, which has marginal impact on young people; however a requirement is made to improve practice in this area.

Staff have developed strong links with external agencies. They have a proactive working relationship with the police and other professionals who offer effective support to staff and young people who are involved in risk-taking behaviours. As a consequence, incidents of young people going missing from home are beginning to reduce.

There is a strong commitment to staff training within the home. Staff receive regular training opportunities and routinely undertake refresher training to develop their knowledge and skills. This ensures they have the necessary skills to meet young people's current and emerging needs.

Staff confirm they feel well supported by colleagues and the Registered Manager. However, supervision arrangements are not consistent throughout the team. Some staff have not received regular supervision and up-to-date written records are not being kept at the home. This means professional development and practice is not well monitored and staff do not have opportunities to reflect thoroughly on their performance. Although the Registered Manager has developed a supervision matrix to record details of the time, date and length of supervision for each member of staff, this information has not been kept up-to-date.

The Registered Manager ensures young people are protected through a number of measures, including risk assessments, regular monitoring and frequent communication with a range of statutory and other agencies. He is taking a more organised and proactive approach to managing the home. Staff rotas have been reviewed to provide additional time for the Registered Manager to monitor arrangements and keep good oversight of the quality of care provided. This measure has been introduced to ensure weaknesses are identified and dealt with promptly to ensure the standards within the home continue to improve. The Registered Manager's quarterly monitoring reports and the development plan contribute to the home's improvement agenda. However, the quarterly reports have not been consistently sent to Ofsted in line with regulation, which inhibits the regulator in undertaking their scrutiny role.

Information about this children's home

This privately run children's home provides care and accommodation for up to three young people with emotional and/or behavioural difficulties.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
24/07/2014	Full	adequate
20/01/2014	Interim	satisfactory progress
22/04/2013	Full	good
10/12/2012	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
22 (2001)	ensure that the use of any electronic monitoring devices is provided for in individual placement plans and parents and the placing authority consent to the use of such measures (Regulation 22 (1) (a-d))	16/02/2015
27 (2001)	ensure all staff receive regular supervision with written records that are kept at the home (Regulation 27 (4) (a))	16/02/2015
34 (2001)	ensure a report in respect of any review conducted for the purpose of paragraph (1) of this regulation, is provided to Ofsted. (Regulation 34 (2) and Volume 5, statutory guidance paragraph 3.14)	16/02/2015

Recommendations

To improve the quality and standards of care further the service should take

account of the following recommendation(s):

- encourage young people to take appropriate risks as a normal part of growing up (NMS 4.4)
- ensure where electronic devices are used to monitor children, there is a written policy that sets out how they should be used and how they promote the welfare of children (NMS 10.5)
- ensure that a written record or electronic record is kept by the home detailing the time, date and length of each supervision held for each member of staff, including the registered person (NMS 19.5)
- ensure young people are assisted to obtain the support of an independent advocate to help them in providing their views and feelings to statutory reviews. (NMS 25.7)

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.