

Children's homes - interim inspection

Inspection date	11/02/2016
Unique reference number	SC357133
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 Davitt
Registered manager	Raymond Ashton
Inspector	Rebecca Quested

Inspection date	11/02/2016
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 declined in effectiveness. Since the last inspection there have been two new admissions to the home and three young people have moved on. Young people have not benefited from effectively planned care in the home. The Registered Manager does not ensure that the staff are able to meet young people's needs prior to admission or that they are appropriately matched so as to maintain the security of group living. Consequently young people do not invest in the home and their risk taking behaviours, especially going missing, increase. Some young people, who are established in the home, need to move on in an unplanned way as a result of this lack of appropriate matching. Staff respond promptly when young people are missing and are resourceful in seeking them out. A social worker said: 'Staff go above and beyond in looking for my young person when they are missing.' However, young people continue to place themselves at significant risk with some going missing on an almost daily basis. The Registered Manager seeks reviews of the placement with placing authorities but progress to move young people on to a safer placement is not always achieved in a timely manner. As a result young people continue to place themselves at risk of harm and become engaged in criminal activity. The Registered Manager has not ensured that Ofsted is informed of significant events within the home; preventing the review and monitoring of the home to identify patterns and trends, and to have an oversight of the Registered Manager's response to safeguarding concerns. Staff do respond appropriately in informing placing authorities about child protection concerns. The registered manager has not consistently informed the designated officer regarding allegations about staff. This prevents an independent person making a decision about how allegations should be managed and in having an overview of allegations within the home. Some young people make progress. They engage with education and make good progress in developing practical skills and emotional resilience to become more independent in preparation for moving on to semi-independent living. For example, in learning to use public transport to commute to and from college, cooking and	

budgeting. Staff promote contact between young people and their families and friends where that is safe and in their best interests. This promotes their identity.

Some young people develop positive relationships with staff and are able to talk to them about what is difficult. Young people know how to complain and staff take their concerns seriously. The Registered Manager has not ensured that the outcome of his investigation of a complaint is recorded. As a result it is unclear whether the young person is satisfied with the outcome or whether this needs to be escalated to the next stage of the complaints process.

Staff are skilled in de-escalation techniques and restraint is not regularly used. When it is necessary staff ensure that comprehensive records are made. The Registered Manager reviews them and ensures staff and young people are debriefed. Young people understand why they have needed to be held and for some young people the frequency reduces as they become more able to self-regulate their behaviour. Staff engage well with professional stakeholders and families. They are effective in sourcing educational placements for young people. Staff are able to engage some young people in activities in the community which meet and expand their interests. For example, some young people play football and join the army cadets.

The Registered Manager has ensured that most of the recommendations made at the previous inspection have been met. There are some shortfalls of leadership and management. The Registered Manager has not ensured that all appropriate up to date paperwork is in the home regarding young people; specifically their looked after child review minutes which detail their current care plan are still not present eight months after the review. This does not promote effective care planning. The Registered Manager has not completed a review of the suitability and appropriateness of the location for over a year and has not consulted with any relevant people. Any changes in the locality are therefore not considered when conducting an impact risk assessment for new placements or reviewing current placements.

Information about this children's home

This is a privately run children's home that 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
06/05/2015	CH - Full	Good
05/01/2015	CH - Interim	Sustained effectiveness
24/07/2014	CH - Full	Adequate
20/01/2014	CH - Interim	Satisfactory Progress

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
12: The protection of children standard In order to meet the protection of children standard the registered provider must ensure that:- 2(a) (v) staff understand the roles and responsibilities in relation to protecting children that are assigned to them by the registered person.	14/03/2016
14: The care planning standard In order to ensure the care planning standard is met the registered provider must ensure:- 1. (a) children receive effectively planned care in or through the children's home; and (b) have a positive experience of arriving at or moving on from the home. 2. (b) that arrangements are in place to – (i) ensure the effective induction of each child into the home.	14/03/2016
The registered person must maintain records for each child which – (a) include the information and documents listed in Schedule 3 in relation to a child; and (b) are kept up to date. (Regulation 36 (1)(a))	14/03/2016
The registered person must ensure that a record is made of any complaint, the action taken in response, and the outcome of any investigation. (Regulation 39(3))	14/03/2016
The registered provider must notify HMCI without delay if an incident requiring police involvement occurs in relation to a child which the registered person considers to be serious; there is an allegation of abuse against the home or a person working there; a child protection enquiry involving a child is instigated and any other incident relating to a child which the	14/03/2016

registered person considers to be serious. (Regulation 40(4) (b-e))	
The registered provider must review the appropriateness and suitability of the location of the premises used for the purposes of the children's home at least once in each calendar year taking into account the requirement in regulation 12(2)(c) (the protection of children standard). When conducting the review, the registered person must consult, and take into account the views of, each relevant person.(Regulation 46 (1-2))	14/03/2016

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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