

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC357468
Inspector	Janine Shortman-Thomas
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	Jennifer Ann Williams
Date of last inspection	25/06/2014

Inspection date	04/02/2015
Previous inspection	good
Enforcement action since last inspection	There has been no enforcement action taken since the last inspection.

This inspection

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

Appropriate action has not been taken to address the one requirement raised at the last inspection. Consent has not been obtained from all young people and placing authorities for the independent visitor to view case records and files.

Young people's safety is not maintained. The host local authority is not informed when young people arrive in the home. As a consequence local services are unaware of vulnerable young people in the local area whom need immediate responses to any contacts made. In addition visitors to the home are not routinely vetted and their visits recorded. This shortfall puts young people's immediate safety at risk. The numbers of staff who can potentially work within the home are high, and this has resulted in inconsistent care practice and in behaviours not being consistently managed and addressed. Staff do not consistently follow care plans and risk assessments to address missing from care and reduce violent and aggressive behaviour. As such these aspects of some young peoples' lives remain unchanged. Staff do not respond, report and record significant incidents consistently. Therefore young people's behaviour cannot be evaluated to identify triggers and trends to update care practice to reduce these behaviours and keep young people safe. As a result young people are not kept safe.

There has been one complaint in the home since the last inspection. This safeguarding concern has been managed effectively in line with the procedures ensuring all agencies such as the Local Area Designated Officer, police and placing authority are informed. However, this information has not been documented within the young person's records. Records are not clear and do not cross reference with significant incidents, safeguarding concerns, key contact sheets, unauthorised absence and missing from home records. Also as they are recorded in both note format and electronically information does not always flow and is not easily

accessible. As a consequence staff do not have a full understanding of the young people's present needs to ensure they can continue to care safely and effectively for them.

One young person has successfully moved from the home with their core staff team since the last inspection and another young person with their staff team moved in. Some young people are maintaining high attendance rates and continue to achieve in most subjects, however others are yet to engage meaningfully within their identified provision. Staff ensure young people access education and ensure any barriers to learning are addressed quickly and efficiently to prevent any disruption in learning. For example one young person commented that they are really enjoying their work experience placement which has been sourced to supplement their learning. Young people's holistic health needs continue to be met through primary health services, however in-house therapeutic provision has yet to commence for some young people.

The home is regularly maintained. The lounge and extended kitchen and dining area is maintained to a good standard however young people's bedroom have yet to be personalised to their own requirements.

Six requirements and two recommendations have been raised to improve care practice and keep young people safe. These relate to consistently implementing missing from care policies and associated plans; behaviour management; staffing; young people's records; notifications to host authority; consent for independent visitors; vetting visitors to the home and improving the standards of young people's bedrooms to ensure they reflect their personal identity and taste.

Information about this children's home

The privately owned children's home provides care and accommodation for one young person with emotional and/or behavioural difficulties.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
25/06/2014	Full	good
13/02/2014	Interim	good progress
05/11/2013	Full	good
27/02/2013	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)	ensure that the children's home is conducted so as to promote and make proper provision for the welfare of children accommodated there. This is with particular regard to devising and implementing a behaviour management plan that is consistently used in the home (Regulation 11 (1)(a))	27/03/2015
12B (2001)	ensure the local authority for the area in which the children's home is located, is notified in writing without delay the admission and all details of any young person into the children's home (Regulation 12B (1)(3)(a)(b)(c)(d))	27/03/2015
16 (2001)	ensure that the missing for care policy reflects that of the placing authority, and all related care plans and risk assessments are implemented by all staff consistently in regards to any unauthorised absence and missing for care events (Regulation 16 (4)(b))	27/03/2015

25 (2001)	ensure that there is at all times a sufficient number of permanent, suitably qualified, competent and experiences persons working within the home (Regulation 25 (1)(a)(b))	27/03/2015
28 (2001)	ensure that a permanent form of all young people's records as specified in Schedule 3 are kept up to date, signed, cross referenced in the necessary records and are available in a legible form if kept in an electronic form, to provide a true account of young people's needs and experiences (Regulation 28 (1)(a)(b)(c))(4))	27/03/2015
33 (2001)	ensure consent by the young person and young person's placing authority is provided prior to the inspection of a child's case records by the independent visitor. (Regulation 33 (8)(b))	27/03/2015

Recommendations

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

- ensure young people's safety and welfare is promoted in the home by vetting and recording all visitors to the home (NMS 4.1)
- ensure the home is maintained to a high standard and is personalised to reflect young people's needs (NMS 10.3).

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.