

Children's homes - interim inspection

Inspection date	09/12/2015
Unique reference number	SC357468
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home
Registered person	Time-Out Children's Homes Limited
Registered person address	7 St Petersgate, Stockport, Cheshire, SK1 1EB

Responsible individual	Janet Lumb
Registered manager	Jennifer Williams
Inspector	Janine Shortman-Thomas

Inspection date	09/12/2015
Previous inspection judgement	declined in 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 the last interim inspection the home was judged to have declined in effectiveness. At this interim inspection the home was 'not judged'. There have been no young people placed at this home since shortly after the last inspection 11 months ago. The Registered Manager and staff are currently working within the other children's homes owned by the organisation. The suitably qualified and experienced manager will resume her responsibilities for the home once agreement has been secured for a young person's admission. A dedicated and suitably qualified and experienced staff team for the home has yet to be identified by the organisation. As such the current Statement Of Purpose, which provides clear information about how the service operates to promote and meet the needs of young people, does not reflect the current staffing arrangements for this home. Despite this the Statement of Purpose is made available to placing authorities and parents to assist and enable them in their decision making and, to ensure appropriate placements are made for all young people. The manager ensures the home continues to function and maintain its conditions of registration through regular checks and visits to the home. There are suitable quality assurance processes in place, such as monthly monitoring visits which are undertaken by an independent person in accordance with the regulation. Despite the home being vacant for some time, these visits continue and any actions identified from the visits are generally acted upon in a timely manner. For example the home has recently been re-decorated in the dining area and the young person's bedroom. Furthermore the office has been moved and the home has been carpeted throughout. However a re-occurring action identified within the external monitoring in regards to re-painting the garage remains outstanding. In addition further maintenance work is now required to replace the bathroom floor, which has been removed, and repair the kitchen ceiling following a recent leak from the pipes in the bathroom. The manager ensures the home remains a safe and hazard free environment as she continues to ensure that the electrical, gas and fire equipment are monitored and serviced regularly. Four of the six requirements, and one of the two recommendations raised at the last	

inspection have been suitably met. The inspector was unable to verify if suitable action has been taken to address the two further requirements and one recommendation as there have been no young people admitted into the home. These requirements were in regards to: ensuring that there is a sufficient number of permanent, suitably qualified, competent and experienced staff working within the home; and seeking consent from young people, their families and placing authorities for the independent visitor to consult and view young people's files. These alongside the one recommendation to improve the fabric of the home have been re-issued.

The home has been closed for 11 months. The registered provider has indicated that the home will not be operational until March 2016. Should the home decide to accept placements they are required to inform Ofsted of their intention before they do so providing an up-to-date Statement of Purpose identifying a suitably qualified and experienced staff team.

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
04/02/2015	CH - Interim	Declined in effectiveness
25/06/2014	CH - Full	Good
13/02/2014	CH - Interim	Good Progress
05/11/2013	CH - 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 only employ an individual to work at the children's home if the individual has the appropriate experience, qualifications and skills for the work that the individual is to perform. (Regulation 32(2)(3)(b))	31/03/2016
When the independent person is carrying out a visit, the registered person must help the independent person, if they consent, to interview in private such of the children, their parents, relatives and person's working in the home as the independent person requires. (Regulation 44 (2)(a))	31/03/2016

Recommendations

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

- ensure the home's Statement of Purpose indicates how the home will provide individualised care to meet the quality standards for the children in their care. This is with particular reference to identifying the skills, experience and qualifications of the current staff team who will provide this care and support. (The Quality Standards, page 14, paragraph 3.5)
- ensure the children's home is a nurturing, supportive and safe environment that meets the needs of their children. This is in particular reference to repairing and replacing the bathroom floor, repairing the kitchen ceiling and repainting the garage. (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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