

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC357468
Inspector	Valerie Shephard
Type of inspection	Full
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	13/02/2014

Inspection date	25/06/2014
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Previous inspection	good progress
Enforcement action since last inspection	none

This inspection	
Overall effectiveness	good
Outcomes for children and young people	good
Quality of care	outstanding
Keeping children and young people safe	good
Leadership and management	good

Overall effectiveness

Judgement outcome	good
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The home provides excellent care to young people in accordance with their highly individualised care plans. Young people are central to the running of the home and enabled to have a positive input into their daily lives. There is evidence of extremely beneficial relationships between young people and staff assisting them to develop emotional resilience.

Young people do not go missing from the home or engage in risky behaviour. Young people say they feel safe and know who they would talk to if they felt unsafe.

The manager has a good understanding of the strengths and weaknesses in the home. The successful integration of the therapeutic assessment process enhances the care provided to young people.

One requirement is made as a result of this inspection. This relates to young people giving their consent for the independent visitor to have access to their file.

Full report

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
13/02/2014	Interim	good progress
05/11/2013	Full	good
27/02/2013	Interim	satisfactory progress
10/12/2012	Full	good

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
33 (2001)	ensure consent by the child and the child's placing authority is provided prior to the inspection of a child's case records by the independent visitor. (Regulation 33(8)(b))	06/08/2014

Inspection judgements

Outcomes for children and young people **good**

Young people demonstrate that they are settled and making good progress in all areas of their development. There is evidence of them developing a more positive self-view which has a beneficial effect on their self-esteem. A review report comments, 'the young person is settling well in her placement and is being appropriately supported to progress in all areas of her development.'

Young people enjoy good physical health and their needs are met through the provision of a full range of community health services. Their emotional health is improving as a result of support from the home's therapeutic service. Young people enjoy a varied and nutritious diet, the benefits of which are evident in the condition of their skin and hair.

Educational progress is good considering young people's starting point at the time of placement. As young people settle and achieve, due consideration is given to re-introduction into mainstream school. Young people benefit from 100% attendance and there has been an improvement in issues such as punctuality over time.

Young people are developing an interest in outside activities, which is in contrast to their position at the last inspection. Young people are enthusiastic about fitness and enjoy regular walking and gym club. Attendance at a local sea cadets group assists young people to socialise and learn new skills. Young people are encouraged to become friendly with the neighbours and visit their local shop. All these activities in the community help young people to develop their confidence and social skills.

Young people continue to see family members and people of significance to them. The home is currently helping a young person to prepare for an imminent residential contact. This special event brings looked after children together with their estranged brothers and sisters. The aim is to assist young people to develop and sustain important relationships from their past. If successful, the home plans to host regular sibling contact in the future.

Young people learn independence skills which are in keeping with their age and stage of emotional development. They are responsible for keeping their bedrooms tidy, making drinks and snacks and collecting their laundry. As young people gain in confidence they are able to gradually increase their time away from the home. They are also given more freedom in relation to how they spend their money.

Quality of care

outstanding

The home provides an exceedingly nurturing and supportive environment to young people. This assists them to develop positive relationships with staff and address their attachment difficulties. Young people clearly enjoy living in the home. An example of this is evident in a young person's letter to staff, 'I am writing to let you all know how much I love this home. I have been here for nearly a year and I have had loads of fun and some funny moments since being here.'

Effective consultation ensures young people's wishes and feelings are obtained. The provision of regular key worker sessions provides the arena for more formal discussions. The creative use of a 'feelings' book enables young people to express their views in a different way. Young people know how to complain, however they rarely do so. Young people are cared for in line with their care plans and contribute to these. They demonstrate an understanding of the contents of their placement plan and have regular discussion about future aims.

Staff provide young people with a healthy environment and support them to meet their holistic health needs include emotional well-being. Staff ensure that young people keep their health appointments to maintain good physical health. The provision of therapy on site meets young people's emotional and psychological needs. Support to the staff with training and reflective practice enables them to offer the best possible care they can to young people.

Good support provided for young people's education has resulted in exceptional attendance and good progress in learning. Excellent advocacy on behalf of young people ensures discussions take place in relation to their timely transfer to mainstream education.

Staff encourage young people to take part in activities outside the home and over time there has been significant improvement in participation. Although young people still enjoy home based activities such as arts and crafts, more recently they have begun to venture further afield. With much encouragement, young people are now involved in activities in the community with others of their own age. This has had a positive impact on their confidence, self-esteem and acquisition of social skills.

Staff maintain the home to a high standard providing a pleasing and cosy environment for young people. There are pleasant touches throughout the property, such as ornaments and pictures which create a homely feel. There is a strong focus on cleanliness and tidiness and young people work to maintain these standards in their own space.

An independent reviewing officer said, 'I am very pleased with the placement for this young person, I feel this is as good as you can get.'

Keeping children and young people safe good

Young people say they feel safe in the home and confirm that staff protect them from harm. Young people do not go missing and do not place themselves in unsafe or risky situations. Young people have a strong sense of safety and know how they would deal with a situation which could pose a risk to them.

The home has a range of risk assessments which help to keep young people safe while allowing them normal teenage experiences. These are subject to regular review to monitor their appropriateness.

The staff team work effectively together to provide a consistent approach to manage behaviour and prevent young people causing staff division. The home promotes positive behaviour from young people with a focus on use of praise rather than sanctions. Young people respond well to praise for desired behaviour and this results in them reaping the benefits of behaving well. Staff are trained in physical intervention techniques, but are very rarely required to use these. Their skills in diffusing potentially difficult situations, by de-escalating and withdrawing, assist young people to self-regulate and calm themselves.

There have been no allegations against staff and no investigations of a child protection nature. Staff possess a thorough understanding of safeguarding and know how to respond in the event of any concerns in this respect. The provision of robust recruitment procedures helps to protect young people from adults who could pose a risk to them. Thorough verification of checks and references supports safer recruitment which helps to offer protection to young people in the home.

The home is physically safe and benefits from frequent health and safety checks. Fire drills take place regularly assisting young people to know what to do in the case of an emergency. These practices ensure the home continues to provide a safe environment for young people.

Leadership and management

good

The home benefits from an experienced manager who effectively and efficiently runs the home. The manager is currently working toward an additional management qualification in accordance with the children's home regulations. This will further enhance her fitness to manage this home.

There have been no complaints or concerns in the home since the last inspection. Completion of reports under regulation 33 and 34, in accordance with requirements, provide an overview of the effectiveness of the home's operations. The manager proactively addresses issues arising as a result of the independent visitors report to drive forward improvement. The regulator receives the monitoring reports at the required intervals ensuring there is external oversight of the home's operations.

The home meets the aims and objectives outlined in the recently amended Statement

of Purpose. The home's development plan has been subject to recent review and highlights the strengths and weaknesses of the home.

Records are clear, kept up to date and stored securely and the manager promptly pursues any missing information. This provides staff with full knowledge of the young people to ensure they can continue to care safely and effectively for them. However, one shortfall exists as young people have not given written consent for their files to be scrutinised by the independent visitor. This does not meet with the regulations and consequently a requirement has been made in this respect.

The home is fully staffed and the small team provide consistency of care on a one to one staffing basis. Young people benefit from this consistency as this gives the opportunity for them to develop relationships with a small group of people. Staff training is wide ranging and includes therapeutic modules which complement the work of the therapy team. These modules cover topics such as child development, attachment disorders and learning difficulties. As a result staff acquire a better understanding of the therapeutic input enabling them to support the therapists in their work.

There is effective maintenance of the property and grounds which provides a safe, pleasant and comfortable home for young people. Young people feel the benefit of their homely environment, exemplified by one young person's comment that this is 'home sweet home.'

The manager has addressed the one recommendation made at the last inspection. This related to ensuring the home promotes young people's health in accordance with their plans which set out the current therapeutic interventions.

What inspection judgements mean

Judgement	Description
Outstanding	A service of exceptional quality that significantly exceeds minimum requirements.
Good	A service of high quality that exceeds minimum requirements.
Adequate	A service that only meets minimum requirements.
Inadequate	A service that does not meet minimum requirements.

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.