

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC358046
Inspector	Amanda Ellis
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Residential special school (>295 days/year)

Registered person	The Senad Group Limited
Registered person address	1 St. Georges House Vernon Gate DERBY DE1 1UQ
Responsible individual	Mark Flynn
Registered manager	Karen Tatham
Date of last inspection	25/06/2014

Inspection date	13/01/2015
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Previous inspection	good
Enforcement action since last inspection	none

This inspection

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

At the last full inspection of this service in June 2014, six requirements were identified. The manager has demonstrated within this inspection that all of these shortfalls have been met. The homes Statement of Purpose is available on the provider's website. It is regularly reviewed and produced in a version known as the Children's Guide. These improvements ensure that parents, placing authorities, children and young people are clear about the home's purpose, services, aims and objectives.

The manager's internal monitoring records are in accordance with regulation and submitted to Ofsted at required frequencies. This enables the regulator to have an overview of the effectiveness of the homes quality assurance process, shortfalls and actions to promote improvement.

The Registered Manager has completed her Level 5 Diploma, senior designated safeguarding training and bereavement training. She has benefited from further development of her professional skills through coaching with her senior management team. These combined factors provide strong evidence that the manager demonstrates commitment to ongoing learning. This ensures appropriate levels of knowledge and competence for the role of residential childcare manager.

Missing from care policies and protocols have been implemented in accordance with regulation. These improvements mean that in the event of a young person missing from care, clear and agreed processes are in place to ensure young people benefit from effective safeguarding. Finally, the manager has ensured that all statutory paperwork is obtained prior to a young person being placed. This means comprehensive information provides staff with clarity in the delivery of care.

There have been a number of additional improvements because of four further

recommendations made at the last inspection. While there have been no physical interventions since the last inspection, the format of the physical intervention records includes space to record the views of staff and young people. This enables the manager to fully consider all views when monitoring the effectiveness of physical interventions.

Staff rotas are now accurate, provide a clear account of staff levels, and staff deployment. Staff supervision arrangements are improved, with all staff benefiting from regular and well-planned supervisions. Finally, staff roles and responsibilities are defined and understood. These combined improvements provide evidence that the staff team are well supported, have a clear understanding of their roles and sufficient staff are in place to support the needs of all young people.

Overall, the home has benefitted from extensive changes since the last inspection. A programme of redecoration and refurbishment is continuing to improve the home's interior. The home has a new Care Manager who oversees all care provision. Additional staffing changes include two care managers and three new senior residential care workers who support the Registered Manager. These changes have resulted in increased staff cohesiveness and improved morale. Consequently, young people benefit from staff commitment and enthusiasm.

Since the last inspection, some young people have made transitions to the providers' own Sixth Form College. Effective planning and staff support have enabled successful transitions for young people to adjust to living within a residential college. The home has welcomed new young people. Young people are assessed in advance of a placement to ensure the home can fully meet their social, educational and holistic needs. Care planning is fully inclusive of parents, local authority, education, health care and young people. Consequently, all young people benefit from well-planned placements with clear arrangements for the progression of care plans.

All young people are engaged in education with the providers' own on-site Department of Education registered school. Attendance levels are high and attainment for young people is good. Young people participate in activities, both within the home and in the community. Independence planning is embedded within the routines of the home. Staff support young people to develop life skills within daily living. Young people benefit from a highly structured routine that successfully promotes engagement with school, social activities and communal living.

Safeguarding practice is highly effective. This is reflected in no incidents of young people missing from care, child protection concerns or bullying. In circumstances where serious incidents occur, the Registered Manager ensures that robust actions to safeguard young people. This includes ensuring notification is made to the relevant bodies. This ensures that safeguarding services, placing authorities and Ofsted are able to review the home's response to incidents. Consequently, this ensures appropriate action to follow procedures and protect young people.

These improvements, combined with ongoing developments within the operation of the home highlight the homes capacity for continued improvement.

Information about this children's home

This privately run service is registered as a children's home which is part of a residential school. It provides care and accommodation for up to 38 young people with autism, Asperger's syndrome, or communication difficulties.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
25/06/2014	Full	good
25/02/2014	Interim	good progress
17/07/2013	Full	good
29/01/2013	Interim	good progress

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.