

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC359846
Inspector	Michelle Moss
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Registered person	Cambian Childcare Limited
Registered person address	Pinnacle House 2 Oakwood Square, Cheadle Royal Business Park CHEADLE Cheshire SK8 3SB
Responsible individual	Victor Takadiwa
Registered manager	Paul David Gouldingay
Date of last inspection	05/08/2014

Inspection date	06/01/2015
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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 **declined in effectiveness**.

The home continues to be managed by an established Registered Manager. Integrated work has in some areas of practice weakened, such as education. While the staff appreciate the value of education for young people, links with educational establishments are not always effective in removing barriers that hinder young people's learning. Some young people are home educated. Although staff attempt to support learning, little mapping of progress is achieved. Where school attendance is a concern, minimal steps are taken to secure improvement. This lack of effectiveness means young people are not given sufficient opportunity to achieve appropriate levels of attainment.

In other areas, like reducing the numbers of children missing from care, the Registered Manager has worked effectively with partner agencies. This collaborative working has meant young people are better protected.

There remains a good balance of experience among staff. Individual members of staff are well qualified and have a range of skills and training relevant to their responsibilities and the needs of young people. Young people continue to recognise that staff want to keep them safe and are supportive in helping them through their difficulties. Young people talk fondly about staff, describing them as 'caring'.

While the home continues to take steps to provide a safe and secure environment for young people, there are weaknesses in sustaining good standards of cleanliness. Parts of the home require a deep clean, in particular the two main bathrooms. The entrance hall has a smell of cigarettes which is caused by smoking in an area around the doorway. This has a direct impact on sustaining a healthy environment and ensuring young people have the highest attainable standards of physical health.

When young people have left the home, their transition has been well planned and

co-ordinated. This has enabled young people to make a successful transition back to family.

Well established systems for checking the quality of care continues to be a key process to determine if the home is raising standards. Prompt and appropriate action to remedy shortfalls is not always achieved. For example, improvements needed to keep the home clean have not been sufficiently addressed.

Young people's participation in their care plans has been strengthened. This gives young people greater ownership and influence over planning their care. Improvements required in the safe administration of medication have not been effective to ensure practice for recording medication is of consistently high quality. For example, there are gaps in logs which means auditing young people's administered medication against their doctor's instructions becomes compromised.

Information about this children's home

The home is one of a group of homes operated by the same organisation as part of a contract with a Wolverhampton council. This home provides care and accommodation for up to five young people with emotional and/or behavioural difficulties.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
05/08/2014	Full	good
27/01/2014	Interim	satisfactory progress
08/05/2013	Full	good
14/03/2013	Interim	inadequate 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
21 (2001)	ensure suitable arrangements for the recording, handling, safekeeping, safe administration and disposal of any medicines received into the children's home (Regulation 21(1))	20/02/2015
31 (2001)	ensure that all parts of the children's home used by children are kept clean and reasonably decorated and maintained (Regulation 31(2)(e))	20/02/2015
18 (2001)	promote the educational achievement of children accommodated in the children's home, in particular by ensuring that effective links are maintained with any schools or colleges attended by children accommodated in the home (Regulation 18 (c))	20/02/2015
18 (2001)	promote the educational achievement of children accommodated in the children's home, in particular	20/02/2015

	by ensuring that the routine of the home is organised so as further as to further children's participation in education, including regular attendance at school and college. (Regulation 18(1)(b))	
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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.