

## Children's homes - interim inspection

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|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Inspection date</b>           | <b>10/02/2016</b>                                   |
| <b>Unique reference number</b>   | <b>SC368637</b>                                     |
| <b>Type of inspection</b>        | <b>Interim</b>                                      |
| <b>Provision subtype</b>         | <b>Children's home</b>                              |
| <b>Registered person</b>         | <b>Channels and Choices Kent LLP</b>                |
| <b>Registered person address</b> | <b>10 Clanwilliam Road, Deal,<br/>Kent CT14 7BX</b> |

|                               |                          |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Responsible individual</b> | <b>Martin Scholfield</b> |
| <b>Registered manager</b>     | <b>Raymond Ashton</b>    |
| <b>Inspector</b>              | <b>Jan Hunnam</b>        |

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| <b>Inspection date</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <b>10/02/2016</b> |
| <b>Previous inspection judgement</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <b>Good</b>       |
| <b>Enforcement action since last inspection</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <b>None</b>       |
| <b>This inspection</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                   |
| <p><b>The effectiveness of the home and the progress and experiences of children and young people since the most recent full inspection</b></p> <p>This home was judged <b>Good</b> at the full inspection. At this interim inspection Ofsted judge that it has <b>Sustained effectiveness</b>.</p> <p>At the last inspection, two recommendations were made and these have been met.</p> <p>Staff have undertaken training in self-harm, ensuring they have the knowledge and skills to recognise if a young person may be at risk. The policy relating to self-harm has been revised and now provides clearer guidance for staff to manage such behaviour and protect young people.</p> <p>Young people continue to benefit from a stable, well-trained staff team who provide consistent therapeutic care. Positive, trusting relationships enable young people to feel secure and safe and they make significant progress. One young person has recently made a very successful move to foster care following a well-planned transition and a careful matching process to ensure the placement fully meets their needs.</p> <p>Staff ensure young people receive input from specialist health professionals when necessary. Their emotional needs have a high priority. They engage in one-to-one weekly therapy sessions and group therapy sessions. Monthly 'therapeutic thinking time' meetings, led by therapists, allow staff to reflect, analyse support strategies and develop their understanding of young people's specific attachment styles and their particular needs. Young people who have been living at the home for some time make attachments with staff and demonstrate increased emotional maturity in dealing with difficult situations.</p> <p>All young people participate in education with detailed routines in place to support them in their transition to school. For some who have previously not attended school for years, their regular attendance and developing ability to manage interactions with their peers demonstrates real progress.</p> <p>The Registered Manager provides strong leadership for a team who are keen to improve continuously. They are developing a reflective, 'lessons learned' approach</p> |                   |

to their practice, and amend strategies to meet young people's needs. They embrace all training and development. They particularly value input from therapists to increase their understanding of young people and the importance of strategies which are relevant and tailored to young people's specific needs.

Young people's views are important to staff. Daily group meetings allow young people to put forward their views and opinions whilst frequent one-to-one key work sessions provide opportunities for them to voice concerns. Staff listen to young people and advocate on their behalf. In a recent move to foster care, the Registered Manager was proactive in putting forward the young person's views and ensuring they were fully taken into consideration in placing him. There has been one complaint from a young person since the last inspection. This was properly investigated with a formal outcome letter explaining the outcome.

Safeguarding processes are strong. Staff have up-to-date training relating to current risks facing young people. Individualised risk assessments identify their specific vulnerabilities with appropriate measures in place to protect them from harm. Key work action plans guide staff in addressing these risks with young people so they develop an understanding of how to keep themselves safe.

Monitoring of the home is robust. The Registered Manager's quarterly reports demonstrates perceptive oversight of the home. Day-to-day monitoring of incidents is rigorous with appropriate comments and follow-up action identified. External monthly monitoring reports identify any shortfalls which are promptly remedied.

## Information about this children's home

The home is registered to provide care and accommodation for up to three young people with emotional and/or behavioural difficulties. The home is operated by a private organisation. It offers therapeutic residential care.

## Recent inspection history

| Inspection date | Inspection type | Inspection judgement |
|-----------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| 19/10/2015      | Full            | Good                 |
| 14/10/2014      | Full            | Good                 |
| 18/08/2014      | Full            | Inadequate           |
| 25/03/2014      | Interim         | Good progress        |

## **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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