

Children's homes - monitoring

Inspection date	05/02/2016
Unique reference number	SC370910
Type of inspection	Monitoring
Inspector	Clive Lucas

This monitoring visit

This monitoring visit was carried out seven days after the interim inspection. This was because additional information was brought to Ofsted's attention which suggested that young people may not be receiving appropriate care.

There is a high amount of challenging behaviour within the home. This includes young people staying up into the early hours and causing damage to the property. There are also assaults on staff. Despite the challenging behaviour and assaults, there are times when there are appropriate interactions between staff and young people. Staff will provide young people with emotional support. For example, young people will ask staff for a hug if they have been feeling upset.

There are behaviour management plans and risk assessments for young people. However, in parts they are not fully up to date and some contain inconsistent information or lack information. These documents should provide staff with guidance on how to consistently and effectively work with young people, to keep them safe and help them manage their behaviour. They are not all well enough recorded to do this reliably. This is particularly significant as there are a number of agency staff and staff from other homes working at this home. They need to have access to good quality information. In most cases agency staff receive a proportionate induction into the home which helps them understand the young people's needs and vulnerabilities. Such inductions are not recorded for all agency staff, despite them working individually with young people very soon after starting at the home. This places young people at risk of receiving insufficiently informed care.

Some staff have been working long hours, aggravated by disturbed nights when they are sleeping at the home. A new rota with two waking night staff is due to be implemented. It is anticipated that this will help to reduce the hours and disturbed nights.

There are times when young people are taking part in normal and appropriate activities with staff such as watching films, shopping and makeovers. There is a low incidence of police involvement, but there have been some times when they are called due to assaults on staff. There are times when young people are not living in a calm and settled environment. This is restricting their progress. In the near future two of the three young people are due to move to placements which it is envisaged will be better able to meet their needs. While it is hoped this will lead to more positive outcomes for them, they will have to cope with the disruption of the moves. For one of the young people this is due to a health diagnosis which they received after moving into the home.

The previous inspection resulted in a judgement of declined effectiveness. This visit has shown no reason to change that judgement. The organisation need to address the requirements set out at the previous inspection and this monitoring visit.

Information about this children's home

This children's home is owned by a private company. It is registered to offer care and accommodation for three young people with emotional and/or behavioural difficulties between the ages of 11 and 17 years.

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
11. The positive relationships standard: In order to meet the protection of children standard with particular reference to ensuring that children's behaviour management plans are comprehensive and up to date, the registered person to ensure that staff: 2(a)(i) meet each child's behavioural and emotional needs, as set out in the child's relevant plans.	31/03/2016
12. The protection of children standard: In order to meet the protection of children standard with particular reference to having up to date, comprehensive and accurate risk assessments, the registered person must ensure that staff: 2(a)(i) assess whether each child is at risk of harm, taking into account information in the child's relevant plans, and, if necessary, make arrangements to reduce the risk of any harm to the child.	31/03/2016
The registered person must ensure that each employee completes an appropriate induction. This relates to agency staff having a proportionate induction. (Regulation 33(1)(a))	31/03/2016

Information about this inspection

The purpose of this visit was to monitor the action taken and the progress made by the home since their last Ofsted inspection.

This inspection was carried out under the Care Standards Act 2000.

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