

Children's homes - interim inspection

Inspection date	25/01/2016
Unique reference number	SC372611
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home
Registered manager	Vacant
Inspector	Julian Mason

Inspection date	25/01/2016
Previous inspection judgement	Good
Enforcement action since last inspection	None
This inspection	
The effectiveness of the home and the progress and experiences of children and young people since the most recent full inspection	
This home was judged Good at the full inspection. At this interim inspection Ofsted judge that it has declined in effectiveness.	
The home has been without a registered manager for ten months. Although a manager was recruited to the role last year, the post holder did not stay long enough for their suitability and fitness to be assessed by Ofsted. A new manager has been appointed and is in the processes of applying to register. These circumstances have left the home without someone who can be formally held accountable and responsible by the regulator for the day-to-day operation of the service. Young people and staff have not experiencing leadership and management from a person who has been able to successfully register with Ofsted to manage the home. At the last inspection three requirements and a recommendation were made. All have been met apart from one requirement which is repeated at this inspection. Arrangements are in place to carry out return home interviews if a young person has been missing from care. However, this has not been necessary as the current young person does not behave in this way. Staff access a wide range of training and development opportunities that enhances their individual skills and knowledge. They also have access to suitably qualified therapists who help to shape and inform their practice in relation to specific areas of need that have been identified. Quality assurance and monitoring systems have been reviewed and updated with the introduction of a new reporting format. The most recent report reflects on key areas of the home's operation and what has been done to rectify identified shortfalls, especially around leadership and management. However, the current report does not consider what young people have to say about the service or what action has been taken as a result of their feedback. Although consultation takes place, it is not currently evaluated to reflect any improvements made to the service overall. This is a missed opportunity to formally consider the feedback received and show the actions taken to develop the home further. Young people benefit from a comfortable home environment which is well organised, clean and comfortable. They have their own bedrooms, which can be decorated and personalise to their own tastes. Young people's personal space and	

right to privacy is respected. They are able to influence and make choices about colour schemes and furnishings when areas of the home are being improved. Overall, young people's health and safety is promoted but parts of the driveway leading to the house are weathered and potholed. Pathways leading from the car parking area to the house also get muddy and water logged in bad weather. This does present some risks to car users and pedestrians as it makes navigation to and from the property difficult sometimes.

There have been some changes to the resident group of young people. One young person has left the home and another has been admitted. Staff have ensured that new and departing young people have received the necessary support that matches their individual circumstances and needs. Newly arriving young people are quickly helped to settle in because staff work together to build familiar care and support routines. This is particularly the case in supporting young people to maintain good attendance at school and continued engagement in their learning. Young people have formed some good attachments and relationships with staff which has enhanced their experiences of being looked after.

The service has well established networks and relationships with a range of agencies and professionals who are involved in meeting the needs of young people. For example, staff work closely with education staff and use their local knowledge to help young people access chosen community activities. For example, attending church, belonging to a choir and helping out at a local youth group.

Young people are safe in the home and with the staff who work with them. A key focus of the new manager and staff team is the way in which young people are successfully engage in matters that relate to their ongoing needs. Staff approach this work in a planned and coordinated way, which is reflected in their daily practice and routines. Young people benefit from individual key worker sessions that cover a wide range of subject areas relating to personal safety, behaviour and relationships. Work is assessed and evaluated to ensure the right approaches are being taken that will potentially benefit young people in the future.

Information about this children's home

This home is registered for two children and young people with emotional and/or behavioural difficulties. It is owned and managed by a private company.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
28/05/2015	CH - Full	Good
26/01/2015	CH - Interim	Sustained effectiveness
03/06/2014	CH - Full	Good
24/01/2014	CH - Interim	Inadequate progress

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
12. The protection of children standard. In order to meet the protection of children standard the registered person must ensure that children are protected from harm and enabled to keep themselves safe. (2)(d) In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure that the premises used for the purposes of the home are designed, furnished and maintained so as to protect each child from avoidable hazards to the child's health. This is in relation to the home's driveway and pedestrian access from the car parking area.	29/02/2016
In order to complete a quality of care review the registered person must establish and maintain a system for monitoring, reviewing and evaluating the feedback and opinions of children about the children's home, its facilities and the quality of care they receive in it and any actions that the registered person considers necessary in order to improve or maintain the quality of care provided for children. (Regulation 45(2)(b)(c))	29/02/2016

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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