

Children's homes - interim inspection

Inspection date	14/12/2016
Unique reference number	SC373941
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home
Registered person	East Sussex County Council
Registered person address	County Hall, St. Annes Crescent, Lewes, East Sussex, BN7 1UE

Responsible individual	Elizabeth Rugg
Registered Manager	Ian Williams
Inspector	Jan Hunnam

Inspection date	14/12/2016
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 judges that it has sustained effectiveness. At the previous inspection in July 2016, two requirements and one recommendation were made. The staff team have undertaken training in autism and now have a greater understanding of the needs of young people with autistic spectrum disorders. Staff complete fire safety checks regularly with close monitoring by managers. With the appointment of a new deputy manager, there is now sufficient management capacity to ensure staff receive regular supervision. Staff are having opportunities to reflect on their practice and the needs of young people in line with the organisation's policy. Some young people who have been living at the home for a period of time are making excellent progress. They benefit from the individualised support they receive from staff who understand and respond to their specific needs. They have developed warm and meaningful relationships with staff who provide consistent, nurturing care giving them a sense of safety, protection and trust in the adults who care for them. They are making excellent progress at school. Two young people have received Children in Care awards for their progress in education. One young person who, before living in the home had missed a year of school, is now achieving 95% attendance. Other young people are finding it more difficult to engage with staff and respond to the support staff offer. Staff have recently completed training in therapeutic parenting and receive on-going support from a worker from the child and adolescent mental health service who attends weekly team meetings. Staff thus have opportunities to discuss support strategies and further their understanding of the meaning of young people's behaviour. This helps to ensure they are providing effective support appropriate to each young person's needs. One young person's emotional resilience and well-being has significantly improved through individual therapy and the day-to-day emotional support from staff. There have been occasions when young people have left the home without permission. Staff follow agreed procedures and protocols to safeguard young people and minimise the risk of harm. Young people, who were frequently reported as missing, have improved their behaviour and have become increasingly safe.	

Staff adopt a robust approach to safeguarding and are diligent in their recording of concerns. Managers take appropriate action, including prompt consultation with the local authority designated officer, to ensure safeguarding concerns are dealt with and young people protected.

Successful reward and incentive schemes promote positive outcomes and assist young people in behaving appropriately. Some young people respond well to their individualised incentives and show marked improvement in their behaviour, particularly in school attendance.

Contact with young people's families is particularly well considered. Liaison with social workers and young people's family and friends is an important aspect of their care plans. Such thoughtful planning helps to reduce the incidence of young people being reported as missing and is helping them deal with the emotional impact of difficult family relationships.

The registered manager provides strong leadership and management and clearly places the needs of young people at the forefront of practice. He leads a stable team of motivated and committed staff who provide high standards of care and ensure young people's specific and complex needs are met.

Information about this children's home

This children's home provides care and accommodation for up to four children with emotional and/or behavioural difficulties. The home is operated by a local authority.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
20/07/2016	Full	Good
04/03/2016	Interim	Improved effectiveness
09/09/2015	Full	Requires improvement
29/01/2015	Interim	Sustained effectiveness

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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