

Children's homes - interim inspection

Inspection date	25/02/2016
Unique reference number	SC378407
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home
Registered person	Time-Out Children's Homes Limited
Registered person address	Unit 2, Mill Fold, Ripponden, Sowerby Bridge, West Yorkshire, HX6 4DH

Responsible individual	Janet Lumb
Registered manager	Karen Houghton
Inspector	Louise Redfern

Inspection date	25/02/2016
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 sustained effectiveness. Since the last inspection the manager and staff team have addressed all the identified shortfalls. The young person has remained well settled in the home. Grandparents and the placing social worker comment on the positive progress the young person has made since living there. The manager has ensured that HMCI is informed of any changes to the Statement of Purpose within timescales. The small but consistent staff team work effectively with the young person. They know the young person well and are able to provide a stable and calm environment for him. The home is well maintained and the staff team ensure the young person is involved in the décor choices. Pictures and certificates of achievements are proudly displayed around the home, creating a warm and welcoming feel. The manager is slowly introducing new staff members to the team, this process is being closely managed to ensure the young person feels comfortable and at ease with new faces. The manager has a plan to increase the occupancy of the home to two young people, in line with the current registration, when she feels she has the team in place to support a positive match to the home. The young person is well aware of this plan and as a result understands why the numbers of staff team is being increased. Staff report that they feel the manager is approachable and they are well supported in their role. There is an effective induction programme in place for all new employees and staff comment that they benefit from regular supervision. The organisation has introduced new appraisal forms, which provide for ascertaining the views of young people and other professionals. This will support the manager to assess the fitness and practice of individual staff and drive improvement across the staff team. There is effective monitoring of the home, the manager undertakes regular checks of the home and relevant paperwork. Although the manager has not yet fully completed the six month review of the quality of care, the organisation has made	

improvements to the template. The improved template includes the actions to be taken when shortfalls are identified.

The manager has reviewed and subsequently made changes to the independent visitor arrangements. The new visitor provides the manager with evaluative reports. These reports evidence the level of scrutiny undertaken to assess the home's arrangements for safeguarding and promoting positive outcomes for young people.

The manager is passionate about the level of care provided in the home; she remains committed to supporting the staff team, in order to help young people achieve their potential. The young person continues to make progress from his starting point; he remains engaged in education, enjoying the bespoke timetable, which has been adapted to encourage engagement and support achievements. The young person remains engaged in community based activities, such as scouts. He has developed and sustained appropriate peer friends in the local community, which supports social interaction, emotional development and provides for opportunities to spend time away from the staff team with his friends in the local community.

The staff team remain committed to supporting family relationships, and ensure the young person sees family members who are important to him. The staff team have developed very good relationships with key family members; this provides for consistency and ensures the young person sees unity between the home and his family. One family member commented: 'it's brilliant when I come over, the staff are relaxed and I enjoy spending time with X and the staff. I am pleased he is living there.'

Despite the progress the young person is making there continues to be episodes of missing from home; staff work tirelessly to locate and return the young person as quickly as possible. They are supported by a risk assessment which is regularly updated with new information. The risk assessment clearly identifies the agreed strategies staff must follow. Records are completed and give a clear picture of the incident; however the manager has not ensured that following each episode of missing the young person has the opportunity to meet with an independent person. This is a missed opportunity to support the young person and to uncover any possible information that could be useful in the future.

Overall the young person continues to live in a home that supports him and encourages progress across all aspects of his care. The manager and staff team remain committed to providing a safe and positive environment for the young person. The shortfall raised has not significantly impacted on the welfare of the young person.

Information about this children's home.

This is a private children's home that provides care and accommodation for up to two young people with emotional and/or behavioural difficulties.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
22/07/2015	CH - Full	Good
26/02/2015	CH - Interim	improved effectiveness
11/09/2014	CH - Full	Good
27/02/2014	CH - Interim	Not Judged

What does the children's home need to do to improve?

Recommendations

To improve the quality and standards of care further the service should take account of the following recommendation(s):

- When a child returns to the home after being missing from care or away from home without permission, the responsible local authority must provide an opportunity for the child to have an independent return home interview. (The Guide page 45, 9.30)

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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