

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC378407
Inspector	Angela Whiteley
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Registered person	Time-Out Childrens Homes Limited
Registered person address	Timeout Childrens Homes Ltd, Unit 2 Mill Fold, Ripponden SOWERBY BRIDGE West Yorkshire HX6 4DH
Responsible individual	Debbie Rowlands
Registered manager	Karen Houghton
Date of last inspection	11/09/2014

Inspection date	26/02/2015
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Previous inspection	good
Enforcement action since last inspection	none

This inspection

This home was judged good at the last full inspection. At this interim inspection Ofsted judge that it has **improved effectiveness**.

Since the last full inspection the service has demonstrated continued improvement in the quality of care and outcomes for young people. The Registered Manager has effectively addressed the two requirements and two recommendations made at the last inspection. This demonstrates her commitment to improving the service.

Young people are protected by strong child protection measures with regard to staffing, health and safety, bullying and behaviour management. The Registered Manager and staff work closely with other professionals and the placing authority to ensure the safety and welfare of young people. A recent admission unsettled a well-established and stable placement. Prompt and carefully considered care planning decisions enabled one young person to move in a planned way to another home within the organisation. Effective support of young people has enabled them to settle quickly back into their daily routine with consistent boundaries that they understand.

Young people have made some good progress in several areas since the last inspection. For example, young people's behaviour shows improvement. Behaviour management strategies are regularly reviewed to ensure staff use appropriate strategies and techniques. As a result, young people begin to learn to take responsibility for their behaviour. The home's records demonstrate that the use of physical intervention and sanctions is rare and incidents of young people going missing from the home have significantly reduced.

Young people continue to achieve improved outcomes in terms of their education. Some have demonstrated improved achievement that has resulted in a return to secondary education, where they have excellent attendance. They benefit from improved contact arrangements and have opportunities to take part in a wide range of activities that help develop their social networks, build confidence and their self-esteem. For example, computer code club, climbing club and scouts. Young people

are particularly proud of their scouting achievements and wear their uniform with pride, displaying their badges as recognition of the skills they have learnt.

The home is well resourced in terms of staffing and finance. Staff work across two homes, which are managed by the same Registered Manager. This ensures young people are cared for by staff they know and provides a consistent approach to their care. Young people benefit enormously from the nurturing care provided by an experienced staff team. They have the necessary skills and training to meet the needs of the young people in placement. Staff are highly motivated and committed to helping young people achieve stability and permanence. They are not deterred by the challenging behaviours that young people exhibit and take appropriate action to any incidents that do occur.

The home has a comprehensive Statement of Purpose which is regularly reviewed to ensure the changing needs of children and young people are safely met. Despite this, the document does not provide clear information in respect of the age range of children and young people the home intends to provide care for.

The Registered Manager is passionate about her role and leads by example. Her monitoring arrangements are sufficiently thorough to ensure that she keeps good oversight of the quality of care provided. She completes monthly quality assurance reports that contribute towards the home's improvement agenda. However, these reports have not been sent to Ofsted at the required frequency. In addition, the independent visitor is inspecting the home at least monthly but her reports are not consistently sent to Ofsted in line with regulation and do not clearly demonstrate that the relevant checks required have been carried out. These inactions have not had a negative impact on young people as issues are appropriately identified and promptly addressed by the Registered Manager. However, this can inhibit the regulator in undertaking their scrutiny role. The Registered Manager is reviewing the home's monitoring systems to ensure these processes are more effective.

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
11/09/2014	Full	good
27/02/2014	Interim	not judged
02/05/2013	Full	adequate
31/01/2013	Interim	satisfactory progress

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

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 Regulations 2001 and the National Minimum Standards. The registered person(s) must comply with the given timescales.

Reg.	Requirement	Due date
33 (2001)	ensure that the independent person produces a written report about each visit to the home and provides a copy of the report to Ofsted and the registered provider (Regulation 33 (9) (a) (d))	02/04/2015
34 (2001)	ensure a report in respect of any review conducted for the purpose of paragraph (1) of this regulation, is provided to Ofsted (Regulation 34 (2))	02/04/2015

Recommendations

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

- ensure the home has a clear Statement of Purpose (NMS 13.1)

- ensure visits to the home carried out under Regulation 33 include relevant checks set out in regulations and guidance and checks of any disciplinary measures and use of restraint and records of missing person's reports (NMS 21.7)

What inspection judgements mean

At the interim inspections 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

The purpose of this inspection is to assure children and young people, parents, the public, local authorities and government of the quality and standard of the service provided. The 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 relevant regulations and meets the national minimum standards.

The report details the main strengths, any areas for improvement, including any breaches of regulation, and any failure to meet national minimum standards. The judgements included in the report are made against the framework of inspection for children's homes.