

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC386837
Inspector	Ruth Loughridge
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Registered person	New Horizons (Stockport) Ltd
Registered person address	5 Bramhall Park Road, Bramhall STOCKPORT Cheshire SK7 3DQ
Responsible individual	Bharati Parikh
Registered manager	Amie Rebeka Evans
Date of last inspection	25/06/2014

Inspection date	20/02/2015
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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 **sustained effectiveness**.

Young people continue to benefit from the high standard of care provided at this home.

When young people move into the home, staff take time to establish their likes and dislikes, their wishes and feelings. This contributes to individualised and well planned care. Staff work closely with placing authorities and schools to ensure that education provision is tailored to meet young people's needs. As a result, improvements in young people's engagement in education are steady. Good working relationships with the local drug and alcohol team means that young people are promptly referred, and they can receive professional support when issues are identified.

Planning and preparation for young people to move to independence occurs with placing authorities in a timely way. This gives young people the opportunity to develop skills and prepare themselves to move on from the home. Young people generally return quickly when they have been missing, and staff often know young people's whereabouts when they have been absent without agreement. When these circumstances arise, staff take appropriate action such as informing all relevant parties including the police.

The caring approach of staff helps them to build positive relationships with young people. The independent reviewing officer for one of the young people stated, 'There is good communication between the social worker and the home and this has helped to ensure this has been a successful placement for him. He has opened up more to staff here than he has in a long while - he has opened up and is trusting them more.' Because of the good relationships, young people are amenable to support from staff around personal, major life events. This benefits their emotional wellbeing.

Allegations against staff are thoroughly investigated. When such an incident occurs, the local authority designated officer is consulted, placing social workers are informed and young people are informed of the investigation outcome. Not all significant events are reported to Ofsted. This limits Ofsted's ability to monitor the service. An appropriate requirement has been made.

The Registered Manager continues to monitor the home and the progress that young people make. The independence of the regulation 33 visitor to the home has been enhanced as the visitor no longer has the dual role of providing supervision to the Registered Manager. The regulation 33 visitor does not consult with relatives which means that an important source of feedback is not accounted for within the quality assurance process.

As staff annual appraisals have not yet taken place, a recommendation in relation to the inclusion of young people's views in appraisals cannot yet be assessed. The remaining recommendation made at the last inspection, has been met.

Information about this children's home

The home provides care and accommodation for two young people with emotional and behavioural difficulties or learning difficulties. The home is owned and managed by a private company.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
25/06/2014	Full	good
13/03/2014	Interim	good progress
17/10/2013	Full	good
26/11/2012	Interim	good 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
30 (2001)	ensure any of the events listed in column 1 of the table in Schedule 5 takes place, the registered person shall without delay notify the persons indicated in respect of the event in column 2 of the table (Regulation 30 (1))	31/03/2015
33 (2001)	ensure the independent person, shall interview, children accommodated , their parents, relatives and persons working at the children's home as appears necessary in order to form an opinion as to whether children accommodated at the children's home are effectively safeguarded; and the conduct of the children's home promotes the wellbeing of the children accommodated there (Regulation 33 (8) (a)).	31/03/2015

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.