

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC389698
Inspector	Angie Bishop
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Registered person	Oracle Care Limited
Registered person address	Unit 1 Dane Valley Mill Havannah Street CONGLETON Cheshire CW12 2AH
Responsible individual	Steven Bromley
Registered manager	POST VACANT
Date of last inspection	14/11/2014

Inspection date	06/03/2015
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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 **declined in effectiveness**.

There has been a change in manager; a new manager is in post. At the time of this inspection, she had not registered with Ofsted. The head of care has devised a comprehensive induction and support plan for the new manager.

The previous manager has addressed the one requirement and the two recommendations from the full inspection. During this inspection, three requirements and four recommendations have been raised

The manger has not completed required monitoring of the provision. This means she is not able to effect change in line with the experiences of the young people, their families, and placing local authorities.

Staff and young people identify repeat incidents of bullying. The manager has not devised and implemented adequate safeguarding provision. As a result, some young people are destabilised in this home.

Young people's files do not contain up to date contact information. This presents difficulties for young people and staff should they need to contact one of the external professionals involved in the young person's care planning.

Documents related to staff supervision and appraisals were not available for inspection. As a result, it was not possible to confirm the content of those documents.

Young people are not offered independent advocacy. As a result, the manager and staff do not ensure that young people's views are acknowledged and acted upon.

The head of care leads the matching process for new admissions. The manager is

also involved in this comprehensive process. They use a variety of methods, including meeting with professionals and the young person, to identify suitability. This means every endeavour is made to ensure young people are not impacted by new admissions.

One young person has a detailed safety plan and risk assessment; this ensures staff provide a consistent approach to his behaviour management. An independent reviewing officer said: 'My young person will continue to escalate, he cannot stand having rules around him, he is extremely challenging; he has had a period of stability here.' Young people do not have interconnected risk assessments. Consequently, staff do not adequately safeguard all young people.

Staff continue to support and facilitate contact between young people and their families within the home and in the community. As a result, contact is of better quality and the young person's experience of contact is more positive. One parent said: 'I have found engagement with this placement really good, I hope they can keep him.'

Young people do not consistently attend the linked education provision. When not in school young people are not engaged in purposeful learning activities. As a result, the potential for young people to achieve educationally is limited.

Information about this children's home

This home is operated by a private organisation and is registered to provide care and accommodation for two young people with emotional and/or behavioural difficulties; it is operated in line with a clear therapeutic model. The organisation also provides a registered school around which its homes in this area are based.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
14/11/2014	Full	good
12/09/2013	Full	adequate
24/07/2013	Full	inadequate
19/03/2013	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
34 (2001)	establish and maintain a system for monitoring the matters set out in Schedule 6 at least once in every 3 months and improving the quality of care provided in the children's home (Regulation 34 (1) (a) (b))	10/04/2015
11 (2001)	ensure that the children's home is conducted so as to promote and make proper provision for the safeguarding and welfare of children accommodated there and to make proper provision for the care, education, supervision, support and, where appropriate, treatment, of children accommodated there (Regulation 11 (1) (a) (b))	10/04/2015
28 (2001)	maintain a record in permanent form which includes the information, documents and records specified in	10/04/2015

	Schedule 3; ensure this is kept up to date and is signed and dated by the author of each written entry. (Regulation 28 (1) (a)(b)(c))	
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Recommendations

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

- ensure children have access to independent advice and support from adults who they can contact directly and in private about problems or concerns (NMS 1.5)
- ensure staff and children understand bullying is unacceptable. Staff working in the home understand their role in helping to prevent and counter bullying by any adult or child living or working in the home (NMS 3.11)
- ensure a written or electronic record is kept by the home detailing the time and date and length of each supervision held for each member of staff, including the registered person. The record is signed by the supervisor and the member of staff at the end of the supervision (NMS 19.5)
- ensure staff have their performance individually and formally appraised at least annually and this appraisal takes into account any views of children the service is providing for. (NMS 19.6)

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.