

Children's homes - interim inspection

Inspection date	22/09/2015
Unique reference number	SC390156
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home
Registered person	Pilgrims Corner Limited
Registered person address	Suite 5, The Links, HERNE BAY, Kent, CT6 7GQ

Responsible individual	Sarah Norman
Registered manager	Lesley Dunne
Inspector	Mark Blesky

Inspection date	22/09/2015
Previous inspection judgement	Sustained effectiveness
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 last full inspection. At this interim inspection Ofsted judge that it has sustained effectiveness. There are no requirements or recommendations resulting from this inspection. Young people make good progress in this home from their starting points because they are cared for by staff that nurture them and understand their needs. Effective relationships result in co-operative relationships between staff and young people. One Social Worker commented, 'the quality of the relationships with staff have really helped the young person look at themselves and consider where they want to be in terms of their future '. Young people continue to develop greater levels of self-confidence and their self-esteem grows as they learn to sustain and maintain these relationships. Young people are engaged in hobbies and clubs providing them with experiences within the wider community. One young person has joined military cadets and takes great pride in their presentation and membership. Very good progress is made in young people's attendance and achievements at school. Where young people have previously refused school or been excluded, they now attend achieving over 95% attendance. Schools report that young people who have previously failed to engage in learning are now committed and achieving academically. Social workers are unanimous in their praise for young people's educational achievements. One Social Worker commented 'this is the first placement this young person has had where they have sustained their education and learning. This is because the staff work tirelessly with the school and young person in supporting their education'. A teacher commented, 'Without the great efforts from the Registered Manager and staff it is unlikely this young person would have sustained school attendance, we are extremely pleased with the support that we have from the home' Effective health planning and support ensures that all young people regularly attend core medical services and receive necessary treatments. Where young people have been previously reluctant to attend staff use key working and one-to-	

one sessions to address their concerns, thus constructively supporting and encouraging them to attend.

Health is effectively promoted through staff talking and guiding young people in the importance of making the healthy lifestyle choices. Young people have used key working discussions to gain a good sense of the importance of good health and avoiding harmful behaviours. The young people do not smoke, use substances or alcohol.

Young people have make significant improvements in their behaviour and all social workers spoken to commented that staff manage behaviour extremely well. They say staff establish collaborative and co-operative approaches thus avoiding confrontational situations. There have been no physical interventions or significant incidents since the last inspection. Staff say that this is because the young people trust us and learn to resolve conflict.

Safeguarding is well managed through careful and considered risk assessment practices. This area has been reviewed recently resulting in fewer, more targeted risk assessments. Staff focus their attention on the most significant types of behaviour and occasions where young people need increased protection. Young people take part in the risk assessment process. This enables them to understand risk and the behaviours that they need to adopt, working with staff to reduce or mitigate that risk. This has resulted in collaborative risk management which has engaged young people and helped young people to take increasing responsibility for themselves. There have been no episodes of going missing since the last inspection, which the manager concludes is a measure of the quality of relationships between staff and young people.

The Registered Manager is described by her staff as an effective and strong leader. Staff say that they value her guidance and her leadership. One staff member commented 'she's inspiring, very hands-on and knows how to get the best of staff and young people'. Social workers and teachers spoken to stated 'the Registered Manager has high aspirations for the progress of young people and works tirelessly to ensure they achieve'.

The Registered Manager is also proactive in driving improvement and the positive development of the home. Robust quality assurance visits and inspections are undertaken providing an objective and candid oversight of the home. Where shortfalls or areas for development are identified prompt and effective action is taken. For example there is now a greater focus on informing and including parents in celebrating young people's educational achievements. In addition, there has been renewed interest in activity planning and identifying more varied opportunities for young people to engage with their peers and the wider community.

New independence programmes have been introduced allowing young people to

take control over developing skills that they feel are important to them. Young people focus on managing budgets and improving cooking skills as well as increasing their unsupervised time out of the home.

Reward charts and monthly monitoring have been developed helping young people recognise and celebrate their achievements. Progress charts have offered tangible rewards and praise for good behaviour, which has further increased young people's self-esteem and self-confidence.

Information about this children's home

This private children's home provides care and accommodation for three young people with emotional and behavioural difficulties. There is another children's home within the organisation located next door, the acting manager also has responsibility for this home.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
01/04/2015	Interim	Sustained effectiveness
01/04/2015	Full	Good
25/02/2015	Interim	Sustained effectiveness
17/12/2014	Full	Good

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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