

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC391503
Inspector	Fiona Littlefield
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Registered person	Central Bedfordshire Council
Registered person address	Priory House Monks Walk, Chicksands SHEFFORD Bedfordshire SG17 5TQ
Responsible individual	Kenneth Harvey
Registered manager	Joyce Hunnibell
Date of last inspection	07/11/2014

Inspection date	10/02/2015
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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**.

In the time since the last inspection the Registered Manager has fully addressed the two requirements and one recommendation that were made. The home has continued to make significant progress, which has led to positive outcomes for young people.

When young people are first referred to the home, their needs and vulnerabilities are carefully scrutinised by a panel of social care professionals including the Registered Manager. She works closely with parents, school and social workers to facilitate the young person's stay. Some young people are initially reluctant to come to the home. Imaginative use of community based resources and support for parents helps overcome this hesitation. As a result, young people feel safe and welcomed when they arrive.

Some young people are now being prepared to leave the service when they reach adulthood. Committed and persistent staff work with social workers, schools and parents to identify goals that will help the young people achieve greater independence. Young people access innovative work experience options, which reflect their wishes and interests. The team manager for the local social care team said about the home 'they are good at holistic practice and developing independence. I have a lot of admiration for them.' Consequently, young people gain confidence and make progress, given their individual starting points, in becoming more independent.

Young people do not understand the concept of safety due to their complex needs. Feedback from parents and professionals is that the young people's safety is consistently promoted in the home. Young people's vulnerabilities are identified and management strategies are in place and regularly updated. Due to the high staff ratio, young people are closely supervised. As a result, the young people are safe in

the home.

Young people are regularly consulted, their views listened to and taken into account. For instance, they choose activities and trips into the community such as Butterfly world, the library and meals out. They also recently attended an 'autism-friendly' screening at a local cinema, which had been specially arranged for the young people and which they enjoyed very much. This reflects the determination of staff to give the young people the experiences they want. A parent said 'fantastically good communicators, very open. They're organised and efficient and everyone works together. The boys have benefitted from being there.'

The Registered Manager and staff demonstrate a thorough understanding of the needs of each young person. They are skilled in establishing and reinforcing boundaries and consistent routines. There have been no incidents of physical intervention, complaints or incidents since the last inspection. There is a culture of positive reinforcement, praise and positive attention. An example is a recent 'awards ceremony held at the home where all the young people received an achievement certificate that reflected their personal goals. Young people responded well to this celebration of their progress. Photos of the event and the certificates given to each young person are on display in the dining room. Young people's confidence and self-esteem benefit from this approach.

The Registered Manager monitors the quality of care provided to the young people. Feedback from other professionals about the service is very positive, in particular when referring to partnership working. The local school, where many of the young people attend, commented that 'their main strength is their partnership and positive attitude to sharing, so assessments and goal setting is consistent.' Young people benefit from this measured and reliable approach to their development.

The Registered Manager and staff meet regularly with external colleagues to reflect on practice and discuss new ideas that could improve partnership working. This reflects the continued commitment from staff to continue keep up to date with developments in the social care field. The home has a good capacity for improvement and this impacts positively on young people.

The home provides a homely, comfortable and secure environment for the young people. There is a wealth of resources and activities inside the home and amply room outside for them to enjoy. Young people who come here are able to relax in surroundings that promote their well-being and comfort.

Information about this children's home

This service is registered to provide short breaks for up to four children or young people who have learning and/or physical disabilities. A local authority owns and operates this setting.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
07/11/2014	Full	good
25/02/2014	Interim	good progress
22/10/2013	Full	good
04/03/2013	Interim	good progress

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.