

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC405713
Inspector	Michelle Moss
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Registered person	Cambian Childcare Limited
Registered person address	Pinnacle House 2 Oakwood Square, Cheadle Royal Business Park CHEADLE Cheshire SK8 3SB
Responsible individual	Victor Takadiwa
Registered manager	Sorrelle Esther Elizabeth Fern
Date of last inspection	30/06/2014

Inspection date	21/01/2015
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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 make good progress in most aspects of their life as a result of the care and support they receive. Staff are highly motivated and demonstrate a good level of knowledge and understanding in meeting the needs of young people. Young people benefit from consistency and structure, which gives them a sense of emotional security. This is reflected in the significant progress observed by other professionals working with the young people.

Staff relationships with young people are very positive and this in turn enables young people to better self-regulate their emotions. Young people are clear about their future plans, feel well supported and recognise the positive role of staff in their lives.

Young people continue to be supported in developing their independence skills in readiness for their transition to adulthood. This support means they are better prepared for the extra responsibilities that come with living independently.

The home remains effectively led by a committed Registered Manager. The manager uses a variety of monitoring systems within the home and consistently seeks out the views of young people, parents and social workers, to assess how the home is meeting the needs of the young people. This ensures the home works within practice guidance and is able to proactively respond to any emerging shortfalls.

Risk management plans are in place for all young people,. However, plans do not address risks connected with physical health: in particular, risks associated with dietary needs.

Substance misuse and self-harming continue to be identified as key risks within the home. Staff receive training and proactively work alongside specialist agencies to

reduce the risks associated with these. This includes staff using therapeutic guidance to encourage young people to use a variety of techniques to help regulate their emotions. For example, young people will use stress balls and feeling cards to reduce their emotional vulnerability. These proactive and supportive measures mean presenting risks are managed in a way that helps to keep young people safe.

Restraint is infrequently used. If it is necessary, both young people and staff are given the opportunity to reflect upon incidents to ensure their effectiveness. This ensures young people are effectively safeguarded and able to practice their rights.

Young people are confident in using the complaints procedure to raise concerns. An allegation from a young person was effectively addressed with them but was not reported to the Local Authority Designated Officer in line with the home's procedures. As a consequence, no effective independent overview of the decision making was secured and this compromised safe working practice.

Partnership working is strong with staff effectively communicating and working collaboratively with other services to ensure the emotional, social, educational and health needs of the young people are effectively addressed. Professionals from specialist agencies reported that staff exceed what would normally be expected of carers to ensure everyone is kept updated about the progress of the young people. This partnership working helps the young people to overcome difficulties that have previously impacted on their development.

The requirement and two recommendations from the previous inspection have been addressed. All staff have now attained, or are working towards, their level 3 qualification in working with children and young people. This has given staff the opportunity to develop their understanding of their roles and responsibilities in young people's lives. Young people now have memory books which enables them to reflect on their time at the home. The complaints procedure now holds the current contact details for the regulator Ofsted. This additional information means they are increasingly able to exercise their rights by knowing who outside of the home they can approach.

One requirement has been made as a result of this inspection, to ensure the local authority is notified promptly of relevant issues. One recommendation has also been made, to improve the areas covered by the home's risk plans.

Information about this children's home

The home is operated by a national, private provider and looks after up to three young people with emotional and behavioural difficulties. The service offers planned and emergency admissions, and provides short, medium and long-term placements. Young people living in this home are likely to require high levels of support.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
30/06/2014	Full	good
04/02/2014	Interim	good progress
31/07/2013	Full	adequate
27/02/2013	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
16 (2001)	ensure the prompt referral to the local authority in whose area the children's home is situated, of any allegation of abuse or neglect affecting any child accommodated in the children's home. (Regulation 16(2)(b))	27/02/2015

Recommendations

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

- ensure attention is paid to both physical and emotional health. This includes covering health risks in the home's risk management plan.

(Children Act 1989, Volume 5 Children's home Guidance, Chapter 2.46)

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.