

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC415400
Inspector	David Kidner
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Registered person	Gloucestershire County Council
Registered person address	Shire Hall Westgate Street GLOUCESTER GL1 2TG
Responsible individual	Amanda Henderson
Registered manager	Adrienne Jonquill Elliott
Date of last inspection	19/08/2014

Inspection date	16/02/2015
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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**.

The home has improved its effectiveness since the last inspection as leaders and managers have addressed the three requirements and three of the four recommendations that were made at the last inspection. Leaders and managers now ensure that the independent visitor interviews parents and relatives of young people accommodated there in order to gain their views of the service that is provided. Also, the Registered Manager supplies HMCI with three monthly reports of the reviews conducted by her in respect of the quality of care that is provided in the home. In addition, leaders and managers have raised staff awareness of the need to ensure that a record of any restraint that is used in the home is recorded in line with regulations.

A positive aspect of the service is that restraint and the use of sanctions are rarely used. Restraint has not been used since the last inspection. However, the Registered Manager has taken steps to ensure that staff are fully aware that young people's views of restraint, and any sanction that has been used, are recorded. Also, that any sanctions and rewards for behaviour are clear, reasonable and fair. This ensures consistency and continuity.

The Registered Manager now ensures that young people's targets for achievement are only shared with those who have legitimate need to know the information. This now promotes confidentiality.

Young people continue to be cared for in line with their placement plan. The Registered Manager ensures that placement plans are regularly reviewed. A recommendation was made at the last inspection to ensure that all placement plans clearly identify matters relating to young people's cultural or religious needs. There has been some improvement this area, however not all plans clearly identify these needs, therefore this recommendation has been repeated. The Registered Manager

said that in some instances obtaining this information has been difficult. Staff continue to demonstrate an excellent understanding of the young people's needs.

Leaders and managers ensure that there is a robust admissions process and that comprehensive information is obtained prior to a young person being admitted to the home. Placing authorities provide up to date information of the young person's needs including a current placement plan and risk assessments. In addition, leaders and managers ensure that placement planning meetings are held soon after admission if this is required. However, it was noted that following a recent admission it is unclear that appropriate permissions have been sought for the application of first aid.

Parents and social workers are happy with the care that is provided at the home. One parent said 'it's very homely and my son can go out on trips that he cannot do when he is at home'. Parents said that they can see good outcomes for their children. One parents said 'my son now uses an iPad to help with his communication and he's making more choices'. One social worker said 'the home is meeting his needs very well, they have built good relationships with the family and I have no concerns about the quality of the care provided at the home'.

Staff continue to use alternative methods of communication to engage with young people and to offer choices, and seek their views. The home now uses an electronic device to assist with communication with some young people. This promotes continuity and consistency as the signs and symbols are the same that are used at school and at the young people's permanent home. In addition, the home has posted additional signs and symbols around the home to provide further information and to stimulate communication.

Young people are comfortable and at ease with staff. They thoroughly enjoy staff interaction, and are happy to play games and be encouraged to play. Young people continue to enjoy a wide range of activities both in the home and in the wider community. Staff consistently said that in recent months young people are accessing a wider variety of activities.

Leaders and managers ensure that there is a robust recruitment process that safeguards young people. There have not been any complaints; young people's safety is promoted. There has not been any incident of young people going missing, and bullying is not an issue at the home. Internal and external evaluation meets with regulation. The Registered Manager has a good understanding of the home's strengths and areas for improvement.

Information about this children's home

This children's home is registered to provide care and accommodation for up to six children and young people of either gender with physical disabilities and/or learning disabilities. The children and young people's placements are made under short break arrangements and the service is delivered and managed by a county council.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
19/08/2014	Full	good
16/12/2013	Interim	good progress
04/06/2013	Full	good
11/12/2012	Interim	good progress

What does the children's home need to do to improve further?

Recommendations

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

- ensure that children receive personalised care that promotes all aspects of their identity, in particular more detail as regards to their cultural and religious needs (NMS 2.1)
- ensure children's health is promoted in accordance with their placement plan and staff are clear about what responsibilities and decisions are delegated to them and where consent for medical treatment needs to be obtained (NMS 6.5).

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.