

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC457132
Inspector	Norma Welsby
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	Sharon Michelle Edney
Registered manager	John Antony Minty
Date of last inspection	08/10/2014

Inspection date	04/02/2015
Previous inspection	good
Enforcement action since last inspection	No enforcement action since last inspection.

This inspection

This home was judged good at the last full inspection. At this interim inspection Ofsted judge that it has **sustained effectiveness**.

Since Christmas this home has experienced an unsettled period. At the time of this interim inspection the young person was missing from the home. This is untypical behaviour and is not due to any factors at the home that have changed. The young person has stated that they do not want to live in this location anymore but to live near to family and friends. Several meetings have taken place with the placing authority and interested parties to develop an appropriate action plan. The Registered Manager and staff have worked effectively, with other professionals during this difficult time in the best interests of the young person.

The Registered Manager and staff have a very positive relationship with the young person. The young person is respectful of staff and is aware of their concern for his safety and welfare. During the periods when the young person has been missing he has maintained telephone contact with staff and at times, with his social worker. The home has involved external agencies which specialise in supporting young people who go missing. They have put incentives in place to engage the young person in the placement, with agreed targets and timescales. They have also supported the young person to use an advocate. As well as maintaining contact with the young person they have contacted friends and family and visited the area to search for the young person to persuade him to return home. When the young person has returned home they have been welcoming and supportive. The company's clinical psychologist has been supporting the staff team and working directly with the young person.

The young person's social worker is actively looking for a suitable placement in the right location. She has met with the young person and staff several times. She states that she remains very satisfied with the conduct of the home and has confirmed that it is 'pull' and not 'push' factors that are influencing the young person's behaviour.

During January the home also received two complaints, having not received any for more than one year. Both of these complaints have been investigated internally by the Registered Manager. The first complaint was made by the young person against a member of staff. While appropriate action has been taken in a timely way to resolve the issue for the young person, the matter was not referred to the local authority designated officer. It is considered good practice that, even for what on the face of it may appear a relatively insignificant matter, all allegations about staff working with young people are reported. The second complaint was received from a neighbour who felt unhappy about noise disturbance. Ofsted was also notified about this matter and during this inspection the Social Care Regulatory Inspector examined whether there had been any breaches of the home's regulations and national minimum standards. No concerns were identified.

In this home young people benefit from one to one staffing levels. Staff are very nurturing and have worked hard to develop positive relationships with young people. Young people have enjoyed stable placements at this setting and have made good progress in many areas of their lives. Their confidence has grown and their life skills have improved. Due to the changing needs of young people, staffing levels, particularly night- time arrangements which provide a sleeping- in member of staff only, may no longer be sufficient. The Registered Manager has acknowledged this and is already putting arrangement in place to provide waking night staff.

The home has responded well to the shortfalls identified at the last inspection. The Registered Manager's quarterly review of quality has improved by including identified areas in which he plans to make further improvements to the quality of care being provided. Young people's records have been reviewed and updated and maintenance work in the garden has been carried out. In addition young people's emotional and social development needs have been more thoroughly met by young people having regular access to a qualified psychologist. This home continues to demonstrate its capacity to make ongoing improvements and to respond well to the changing needs of young people.

Information about this children's home

This children's home is part of a private national provider and is situated on the outskirts of a small town. The home offers care and accommodation to one child with emotional and/or behavioural difficulties.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
08/10/2014	Full	good
22/01/2014	Interim	inadequate progress
14/08/2013	Full	good

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 the overall number, competence and deployment of staff, both as a staff group and on individual shifts, can fulfil the home's Statement of Purpose and meet young people's individual needs. This is particularly in respect of night time arrangements. (NMS 17.1)
- Ensure that allegations against people that work with young people are reported by the designated person to the local authority designated officer (LADO). This includes allegations that on the face of it may appear relatively insignificant or that have also been reported to the police or social worker (NMS 20.7)

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.