

Children's homes - interim inspection

Inspection date	20/01/2016
Unique reference number	SC480850
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home
Registered person	Hexagon Care Services Limited
Responsible individual	Mr Kenneth Croll
Registered manager	Karen Brooksbank
Inspector	Michele Hargan

Inspection date	20/01/2016
Previous inspection judgement	Good
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 full inspection. At this interim inspection Ofsted judge that it has improved effectiveness. Two previous requirements and four recommendations are met. Information about external door sensors is now contained within the home's statement purpose. This means those involved in placing children are clear about what monitoring devices the home uses to promote young people's safety. Staff are clear about their duty to promote young people's access to written information that the home hold about them. Young people are more involved in contributing to and shaping what is written about them, which promotes their rights and involvement in their care planning. About the impact of making review reports more child friendly a member of staff said, 'Now reports are more focussed on the young people and not as wordy they want to read them.' Young people's files are being reorganised to ensure they are more accessible to them now and in the future. This means important information about their experiences of living at the home are preserved and available upon request. A member of staff said, 'We ask the young people about once a month if they would like to see their file.' Young people no longer have to sign records to demonstrate they have taken part in aspects of ordinary daily life such a receiving their pocket money. Relaxing this practice promotes more of a family like atmosphere within the home. This helps young people establish a sense of belonging meeting their developmental needs. A permanent registered manager is now in place who is clearly committed to ongoing improvement. This is evident within reports completed by this person as required by legislation, which make clear the positive outcomes for young people. Reports of visits carried out by an independent person to the home are improved and better demonstrate rigor that makes it clear young people's safety and welfare is promoted. This level of scrutiny also drives progress by identifying areas of good practice that can be further developed. Staff rarely need to physically intervene to manage young people's behaviour. It is clear when this is necessary, careful oversight by the registered manager takes place. This consists of a thorough debrief with young people leading to an increased understanding of their behaviour. Staff receive similar support also	

aimed at furthering awareness of what might trigger young people's difficult feelings.

The registered manager enlists the help of other professionals as and when necessary to ensure staff are equipped to support young people. For instance, child and adolescent mental health practitioners visit the home to provide consultation to staff. This deepens staffs understanding of young people's attachment difficulties and the impact of trauma. About the staff a health professional said, 'I'm quite encouraged by their attitude and they have a lot of experience.' Also, 'I have found them to be a very reflective team.'

The registered manager challenges the placing authority when they fail to ensure young people's risk assessment are ratified in a timely fashion. This ensures that placing social workers fulfil their responsibilities to take an appropriate part in promoting young people's welfare.

There are occasions when risk management is compromised. For example, a young person's risk assessment is not clear in one important aspect about what action staff should take in the event of any inappropriate behaviour. This leaves room for misinterpretation and inconsistent responses that may compromise the safety and wellbeing of the young person and others.

Information about this children's home

The home may only provide care and accommodation for six children with emotional and or behavioural difficulties. The home is owned and operated by an independent provider.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
17/07/2015	Full	Good

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

Recommendations

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

- Staff should continually and actively assess the risks to each child and the arrangements in place to protect them. Where there are safeguarding concerns for a child, their placement plan, agreed between the home and their placing authority, must include details of the steps the home will take to manage any assessed risks on a day to day basis. In particular, make clear within all areas of young people's risk assessments what actions to take to effectively keep the young person and others safe. (The Guide to The Quality Standards, page 42 paragraph 9.5)

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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