

Children's homes - interim inspection

Inspection date	13/03/2016
Unique reference number	SC486165
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home
Registered person	Good Foundations Limited
Registered person address	6 Tower Quays, Tower Road, Birkenhead, Merseyside, CH41 1BP

Responsible individual	Andrew Mannix
Registered manager	Genevieve Raw
Inspector	Elaine Allison & Michelle Edge

Inspection date	13/03/2016
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 sustained effectiveness. This home provides a very settled environment for the young people to live in as they grow towards adulthood. The young people learn to live harmoniously together, and to tolerate and respect each other as individuals. They live in a stable home which gives them security and a sense of belonging. Building on the strengths from the last inspection there is significant improvement. All the requirements and all but one recommendation are met and young people make good progress. The home's statement of purpose has been updated and now reflects the home's aims and objectives and gives young people, parents, commissioners and social workers a clear understanding on the services offered. The home's environment has improved; in particular young people's bedrooms are now clean and tidy with appropriate bedding. There is a stable staff team that benefits young people who have good relationships and positive rapport with staff. One young person felt that, 'Staff are great so is the manager.' Young people feel safe to start to open up about their past lives and experiences. They reflect positively about the care that they receive, young people said 'I love it here I am very disappointed that I have to leave here and move on', 'the staff are great we all sit and have a big family dinner' and 'it's great living here'. Each young person readily confirmed they enjoy spending time with staff. Young people continue to make notable and sustainable progress in all aspects of their development. All young people have suitable education or college placements and their improved attendance and personal achievements are outstanding. One young person who had been out of education for a considerable time said, with a huge smile on his face, 'I am in school now and I love it I have got 100% attendance.'	

Young people are supported in their moves from the home to independent living. Staff explore with them the emotional and practical aspects of living alone. An example of this includes a young person being supported by staff to travel on buses to and from his new supported living accommodation to get used to the route. He also has visited his new home and had overnight visits. This ensures that young people have a smooth transition to new home and a positive ending. A young person said 'I have been for sleep overs to my new place and it's really good.'

When young people go missing from the home, staff adhere to good working practices and procedures. The recorded dialogue provides a comprehensive chronology of events. Collaborative working with the police ensures that young people return home safe and well. Staff offer young people the opportunity for an independent return interview, on occasion's young people have refused these. Young people who previously were missing on a number of occasions have only been reported missing on one occasion since the last inspection.

Young people's care plans are meaningful documents that develop in line with changing needs. Young people are part of this process and have access to their information as appropriate. A young person said 'I get to see my plans with the manager and I have looked through all my files.' However, staff have failed to update the risk assessments to include new information, risks and strategies to minimise them. For example, when a young person was found to be in possession of 'laughing gas', there was no evidence that risk assessments or incident forms had been completed. The only place it was noted was in the sanction form. This does demonstrate that strategies are in place to minimise future risk.

Although there have been improvements in the recording of sanctions and room searches. These still lack clarity around the details of the young person's behaviour that led to the use of the measure. For example, one said 'challenging behaviour' with no elaboration on the displayed behaviour. This prevents thorough evaluation of the consequences, as information is not clearly detailed. There had also been instances where room searches were completed to safeguard young people. However, on occasions the reasons for the search and any follow up actions were not sufficiently detailed. This reflects short falls in the recordings of behaviour management strategies, rather than staff practice.

The house continues to offer young people a very well decorated and well maintained environment. Young people personalise their bedrooms and their ideas for redecoration are fully implemented wherever possible.

Information about this children's home

The home provides care and accommodation for up to four young people with emotional and/or behavioural difficulties, special educational needs and/or disabilities. The home is owned by a private provider.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
20/10/2015	CH - Full	Good

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

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 (England) Regulations 2015 and the *Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards*. The registered person(s) must comply with the given timescales.

Requirement	Due date
12: The protection of children standard In order to meet the protection of children standard the registered person must ensure (1) The protection of children standard is that children are protected from harm and enabled to keep themselves safe. (2) In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure— (a) that staff— (i) assess whether each child is at risk of harm, taking into account information in the child's relevant plans, and, if necessary, make arrangements to reduce the risk of any harm to the child;	01/04/2016
The registered person must ensure that—within 24 hours of the use of a measure of control, discipline or restraint in relation to a child in the home, a record is made which includes;- details of the child's behaviour leading to the use of the measure; a description of the measure and its duration; details of any methods used or steps taken to avoid the need to use the measure; (Regulation 35 (3)(a)(ii)(iv))	01/04/2016

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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