

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC356327
Inspector	Marina Tully
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Registered person	Oracle Care Limited
Registered person address	Unit 1 Dane Valley Mill Havannah Street CONGLETON Cheshire CW12 2AH
Responsible individual	Steven Bromley
Registered manager	Darren Elliott
Date of last inspection	14/01/2015

Inspection date	25/03/2015
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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**.

Since the last inspection the company have redeployed Registered Managers within the organisation. This has had a positive impact on this service because the manager is now only responsible for the management of this home. This means he is able to concentrate all of his time on the daily running of this service. Staff have benefited from this change because they are now receiving regular supervision in line with the company's policy. Furthermore, it has enabled the manager to spend more time on the monitoring of the home; ensuring that important documents, such as the home's Statement of Purpose, are kept updated.

Young people remain settled in placement and are making good progress in all aspects of their lives. They are happy with their school and college placements and, on the whole, their attendance and level of engagement is good. Challenges in education are effectively addressed through partnership working. For example, a disruption in a young person's sleep pattern impacted on his ability to get up for college; causing a decline in his attendance. Staff worked hard with him and the in-house therapist to address ways of improving his sleep pattern. Furthermore, they collaborated with his tutors to avoid jeopardising the stability of his college placement.

Young people benefit from personalised care planning and comprehensive risk assessments. Further improvements in placement planning have been achieved because the manager now ensures that all statutory documents, such as care and pathway plans, are held on each young person's file. The home's activity planners demonstrate improvements in activities and leisure interests. Every young person now has access to a range of appropriate community based activities including bowling, the gym, cinema and free time with friends. As a result they are keeping fit, maintaining friendships and growing in confidence.

The home employs a sufficient number of suitably qualified and experienced staff. The core team of staff are settled and have succeeded to develop positive relationships with young people. The company has other children's homes and recently staff have been moved around to cover shifts at other homes. This has significantly impacted on staff's availability; resulting in an increase in the use of agency and temporary staff. The staff rota showed that in a recent 4 week period, 15 days were covered by 8 different agency staff. Furthermore, in the same period, 6 days had been covered from staff from other company homes. Young people are not, therefore, being provided with continuity of care from a consistent staff team. This hinders the positive relationships that they have developed with the core staff members.

Young people's safety is fully promoted within this home. They have robust risk assessments to ensure their needs and vulnerabilities are clearly documented and effectively addressed. This is reflected in a social worker's comments 'I think risk assessments and how staff manage risk is fantastic.' Consequently, risk taking behaviour, such as missing from home, is minimal. There have not been any restraints since the last inspection; which is further evidence of young people's progress. The company has improved the system for recording restraints. Records now include details of the method of restraint used, as well as the action taken to avoid using such measures. Young people's safety can be further enhanced by improving the home's locality risk assessment. For instance, through greater consultation with other relevant safeguarding partners, such as the local authority, probation and youth offending services. This would ensure a more comprehensive assessment of the local area as well as helping to identify useful community resources.

The home is due to undergo a complete re-decoration which is scheduled to start next month. This work will address all of the maintenance shortfalls raised at the last inspection. The young person's broken bed seen during the last visit has been replaced and he is extremely pleased with his new double bed. The repairs already undertaken, combined with the maintenance work planned, further enhances the home's comfortable and homely environment.

The service continues to be effectively managed by a committed Registered Manager who demonstrates enthusiasm, as well as capacity, for continued development. This is reflected in the effective action taken, in the short space of time, since the last inspection.

Information about this children's home

This private home provides care and accommodation for three young people aged from 10 to 17 years, who have emotional and behavioural difficulties. The company also has its own independent school.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
14/01/2015	Full	good
19/03/2014	Interim	good progress
04/12/2013	Full	good
28/02/2013	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
25 (2001)	ensure that the employment of any persons on a temporary basis at the children's home will not prevent children from receiving such continuity of care as is reasonable to meet their needs. (Regulation 25 (2))	26/04/2015

Recommendations

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

- ensure the registered person and staff work effectively in partnership with other agencies concerned with child protection e.g. the responsible authority, schools, general practitioners, probation and youth offending

service. Specifically in relation to the home's locality risk assessment. (NMS 4.7)

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.