

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC040175
Inspector	Melissa McMillan
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Registered person	The Drive Care Homes Limited
Registered person address	Cyrinus House 18 Hatherley Road Sidcup Kent DA14 4BG
Responsible individual	Emmanuel Okon Akpan
Registered manager	Susan Ashburn
Date of last inspection	25/07/2014

Inspection date	18/02/2015
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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 **sustained effectiveness**.

Young people develop skills in preparation for adulthood. They take part in the daily life of the home and participate in preparing meals, shopping and completing chores. Young people are active; they regularly go out on trips and participate in a variety of activities. They are able to learn through experiences and develop their skills in the wider world through using public transport and interacting with others.

Young people receive support appropriate to their age and level of understanding. Staff have undertaken training in the Mental Capacity Act and Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards to support young people over 16 years. The home has redesigned care plans to advise on young people's capacity and have created a format to complete mental capacity assessments when necessary. The Registered Manager has applied for a deprivation of liberty authorisation. This protects young people's rights.

Staff work in partnership with a wide range of external professionals. Effective connections exist between educational settings, health professionals and placing social workers. Staff support young people to have contact with their relatives, which enable them to maintain positive attachments with those they consider important to them. Young people attend regular house meetings and keyworker sessions. They are able to influence the home's menu and activity planner through these sessions. However, discussions around other topics are limited. This prevents young people having a say and opportunity to guide the running of the home in other areas.

Staff identify and plan for young people's emotional and physical needs. Care plans and risk assessments provide basic guidance to staff. However, these plans still lack sufficient detail to inform staff how to care for young people in a personalised way. Young people's educational needs are not included in their care plans. This could inhibit staff from successfully supporting young people to achieve their educational

goals. Staff have not updated some risk assessments after incidents. This could result in an inconsistent and uncoordinated approach by staff. Bedroom door alarms enhance the night time supervision of young people living upstairs and ensures young people receive responsive support from staff if they get up during the night. However, staff have not obtained written consents from the person who has parental responsibility to use the alarms.

Young people rarely engage in harmful or challenging behaviour. Staff use de-escalation techniques successfully to reduce incidents requiring physical intervention. The low number of restraints since the previous inspection and a reduction in most young people's challenging behaviour evidences this. The Registered Manager has good oversight of the restraint log and incident reports. However, the restraint log did not contain details of one physical intervention which had taken place, as required by regulation. The behaviour management policy has not been updated to direct staff about how to record situations where staff have guided young people away from potential harmful situations. This risks an inconsistent approach by staff to documenting incidents and prevents robust monitoring.

Staff protect young people's welfare through effective safeguarding practices. Staff monitor young people closely to ensure their safety and react promptly and appropriately in all situations to protect them. The home's safeguarding policy has been updated to include information on adult protection. This revision assists staff in managing adult safeguarding matters within the home, as guidance is now clearer. The home has had three complaints since the last inspection. The Registered Manager has taken appropriate action to address each complaint. However, on one occasion the staff did not notify Ofsted, without delay, when required. This does not keep the regulator up to date with issues relating to the welfare of children in the home.

The Registered Manager has revised the statement of purpose to ensure it provides up to date information on the facilities offered within the home. The content of the most recent internal monitoring report lacks analysis and thorough evaluation. This does not demonstrate an in-depth review of the home to improve the service. The Registered Manager recognises this and continues to revise and re-assess the effectiveness of internal monitoring systems.

Information about this children's home

This private children's home can accommodate eight children with physical and learning disabilities. There is a garden with wheelchair access to the ground floor of the building.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
25/07/2014	Full	good
18/03/2014	Interim	satisfactory progress
26/06/2013	Full	good
25/03/2013	Interim	good 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
17B (2001)	ensure a written record is made of the use of any measure of control, restraint or discipline, in a volume kept for the purpose of which shall include the matters listed within Regulation 17B (3) (a - i) and (4) (a and b). This is specific to one incident of physical intervention which was not recorded in the physical intervention record.	31/03/2015

Recommendations

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

- ensure children's views, wishes and feelings are acted upon, in the day to

day running of the home. This is specific to expanding upon the areas explored at young people's meetings and key worker sessions (NMS 1.1)

- ensure all children receive personalised care and are treated as individuals. This is specific to care plans to ensure that young people's preferences are included to provide personalised care (NMS 2.1)
- review the policy on managing behaviour. This is specific to providing clear guidance on how to record any use of physical guidance for a young person (NMS 3.3)
- ensure there are clear and effective procedures for monitoring and controlling the activities of the home. This is specific to include more evaluation with regards to Regulation 34 monitoring (NMS 21.1)
- ensure significant events relating to the protection of children accommodated in the home are notified by the registered person to the appropriate authority. This is specific to keeping the regulator up to date with occurrences of significant events in accordance with regulation 30 (NMS 24)
- ensure consent from a person with parental responsibility is clearly documented on each young person's file. This specifically relates to the use of bedroom door alarms (Volume 5, Statutory Guidance, para 2.111)

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.