

Children's homes - interim inspection

Inspection date	21/01/2016
Unique reference number	SC358046
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Residential special school
Registered person	The Senad Group Limited
Registered person address	Senad Group Ltd, 1 St. Georges House, Vernon Gate, DERBY, DE1 1UQ

Responsible individual	Mark Flynn
Registered manager	Karen Tatham
Inspector	Rachel Griffiths

Inspection date	21/01/2016
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	
<p>This home was judged Good at the full inspection. At this interim inspection Ofsted judge that it has sustained effectiveness.</p> <p>This home continues to provide a good service to children and young people. There are some signs of improvement and leaders and managers have addressed two requirements made at the last inspection with a resulting positive impact on the quality of care within the home. However, two further areas for improvement have been identified at this inspection, resulting in the sustained effectiveness judgement. These are recording and administrative shortfalls that are not affecting the safety and welfare of children and young people.</p> <p>Levels of communication between managers, staff and parents have improved. Information sharing is good. Regular feedback is sought from parents in a number of ways. Internal monitoring systems take this into account and actions are taken to make improvements to the service as a result. Parents feel valued and listened too. One said: 'The staff listen and address issues'. Another commented: 'The biggest improvement I have seen is in respect of communication. Staff now make me aware of things before they occur. It feels like a proper partnership now.' Good partnership working with parents helps to provide children and young people with an improved sense of stability and security.</p> <p>Improvement is also evident in relation to the staff recording and management monitoring of significant incidents. Newly amended incident forms prompt staff to record clearly and factually the details of what has happened and provide space for management analysis and staff debrief following each incident. As a consequence, managers have an improved oversight of incidents and practice. This enhances levels of safety in the home and provides scope for further improvements in practice.</p> <p>Refurbishment of the home has resulted in an improved and more welcoming environment. Children and young people are proud of their contributions to the environment. Bedrooms are personalised in styles which reflect individual preferences and needs. A young person said: 'I like my bedroom and I have chosen the colours.'</p>	

Children and young people continue to thrive, enjoy positive experiences and make progress in many aspects of their development. They present as happy and they have fun. A young person said: 'I like going on the computer and I play lots of games. I have been to laser quest, for fish and chips and for walks. I have a lot of fun.' Another said: 'I have got better at skating, cooking and Maths. I can also play the drums and was in the school play, but the best thing about being here is going out with friends'. Parents also speak positively about progress. One commented: 'My son is thriving. His social skills have really developed, he is becoming more independent and he is enjoying a wide range of social activities.' As a result, children and young people are given the opportunity to enjoy, achieve and reach their full potential.

Transitions for young people moving into the home continue to be well managed. Emergency placements are not considered in order to minimise the risk of disruption to the current residents. Pre-admission assessments are thorough. Carefully planned transitions provide children and young people with the best opportunity to settle successfully into their new home. A parent commented: 'I cannot fault the transition into the home. The package provided gave my son time to adjust. He was provided with pictures of staff, the home and his room. This led to as smooth a transition as possible.'

The multi-agency approach, which the home has in relation to helping and protecting children and young people, continues to be a particular strength. Regular key team meetings and consultation between care staff, educational staff and the home's therapy team provide a forum for reflective practice. The team are then able to formulate bespoke packages of support and strategies to help young people modify aspects of challenging behaviour and develop their communication skills.

However, records of key team meetings are sometimes poor and the updating of behaviour support plans as a result of such meetings is not consistent. For example, in one instance, a young person who has been the subject of a number of key team meetings as he has been displaying an escalating range of challenging behaviours, has not had his behaviour support plan reviewed or updated since September 2015. Although there is no evidence that this shortfall is having a negative effect in this instance, poor recording and out of date plans have the potential to impact on the level of consistency and the quality of care provided.

Additions made to the statement of purpose since the last inspection, in response to a recommendation made, provide clarity to parents and placing authorities about the homes admissions procedures. However, in order to be fully compliant with the Children's Homes Regulation 2015 and to provide absolute clarity in respect of every aspect of the service, further additions are required. This is in relation to the numbers of children and young people the home can accommodate, arrangements for supporting the cultural, linguistic and religious needs of children and young people, and the homes approach to the monitoring and surveillance of them.

Information about this children's home

This privately run service is registered as a children's home which is part of a residential school. It provides care and accommodation for up to 38 children and young people with autism, Asperger's syndrome and communication difficulties.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
01/06/2015	Full	Good
13/01/2015	Interim	Improved effectiveness
25/06/2014	Full	Good
25/02/2014	Interim	Good progress

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
The registered person must compile in relation to the children's home a statement ('the statement of purpose') which covers the matters listed in Schedule one (Regulation 16(1)).	18/03/2016

Recommendations

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

- All records must be kept up to date and signed and dated by the author, with particular reference to behaviour support plans being updated. (The Guide to the Quality Standards, page 62, paragraph 14.3)

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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