

1254841

Registered provider: Together For Children Sunderland Limited

Interim inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home is operated under trust arrangements to accommodate up to six children and young people who have emotional and/or behavioural difficulties.

Inspection date: 7 February 2018

Judgement at last inspection: outstanding

Date of last inspection: 5 September 2017

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 outstanding at the last full inspection.

At the interim inspection, Ofsted judges that it has sustained effectiveness.

The home is managed by a skilled management team that is aspirational and committed to achieving good outcomes for the young people that it cares for. The home's manager and the deputy manager have excellent auditing systems in place. This allows them to track the progress of the young people as well as to develop the practice in the home.

The staff team is newly formed. There is a new member of staff joining the team in the coming weeks. The management team is working hard to establish a good standard of practice in the home. This will ensure that the young people receive consistent care. The home's manager is ambitious about developments for the home and aims to train the staff team beyond mandatory training. This includes Forest School training level 3.

Young people experience individualised care and are making good progress in their education, health and development. For one young person, he has made excellent progress in a short period of time. His social worker commented: '(Name) has come on

really well since moving in the home. He is always encouraged to get up to go to school on a morning. Emotionally, he is also developing and is noticing his own progress in this area. He is also developing his interaction with adults and peers, which is something he did not previously have.'

The home has a strong safeguarding culture. Safeguarding is a standalone agenda item in team meetings and supervisions. A member of the staff team attends monthly meetings where multi-agencies come together to share information to develop safeguarding strategies. The manager utilises information that is shared to review the home's locality risk assessment on a monthly basis. The home also has excellent working relationships with the police and this further strengthens the home's safeguarding practice.

The home has an outside building called 'The Spur', which is a space in the garden that is used for therapeutic purposes as well as relaxing. The home's manager intends to further develop this space. A video camera has been added to create a video diary room in The Spur. This is an opportunity for the young people to record memories that will contribute to their memory book. The home is warm and welcoming. The flooring is to be replaced as it is showing signs of wear and tear. The home's manager does not consider aspects of the kitchen to be 'fit for purpose'. He is at a consultation stage to develop this area. This would create a more homely environment for the young people, as it is currently in need of repair.

Care plans inform the one-to-one sessions with young people and these sessions are well planned and recorded. The home's manager and staff team consult with the young people regularly. To strengthen the home's practice further, the views of the young people could be added to the recordings of key-worker sessions. This would demonstrate that the young person's views had been given significant consideration.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
05/09/2017	Full	Outstanding

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

Recommendations

- In some instances, a child may express wishes that are not always in their best interests or which may conflict with the views of other children in the home. In such circumstances, the responsible adults will have to balance the wishes of the child against what they judge to be in the best interests of the child and reach a reasonable view about the best way forward in the interests of all. The reasons for reaching any decision will need to be carefully explained to and understood by the child or children concerned. ('Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards', paragraph, 4.9, page 21)

In particular, that young people's views and comments are recorded in key-worker sessions.

Information about this inspection

Inspectors have looked closely at the experiences and progress of children and young people. Inspectors considered the quality of work and the differences made to the lives of children and young people. They watched how professional staff work with children and young people and each other and discussed the effectiveness of help and care provided. Wherever possible, they talked to children and 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 whom 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.

Using the 'Social care common inspection framework', this inspection was carried out under the Care Standards Act 2000 to assess the effectiveness of the service, how it meets the core functions of the service as set out in legislation, 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'.

Children's home details

Unique reference number: 1254841

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Together For Children Sunderland Limited

Registered provider address: City Of Sunderland, P O Box 102, Sunderland SR2 7DN

Responsible individual: Debra Patterson

Registered manager: Michael More

Inspector:

Jacqueline Tate, social care inspector

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