

1271135

Registered provider: Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council

Interim inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This local authority children's home is registered for up to five young people who may have emotional and/or behavioural difficulties.

The manager registered with Ofsted in February 2018.

Inspection date: 27 February 2019

Judgement at last inspection: good

Date of last inspection: 4 June 2018

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 last full inspection.

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

Young people that have left the home since the last inspection have done so in a planned, controlled and positive way. New admissions to the home have settled in well and are made to feel welcome by staff.

Young people benefit from well-planned, highly individualised care that promotes their needs effectively and contributes to continuing change and improvement in their lives. Young people make good progress in relation to their individual starting points across aspects of their physical, social, emotional and behavioural development.

Staff maintain effective partnerships with the families of young people, social workers,

schools and other professional agencies to ensure that young people benefit from the best possible help, protection and all-round support. Young people benefit from good relationships with staff, and they sustain their positive attachments. They benefit from continuity of care and have consistency and stability in their lives.

Young people benefit from a diverse range of enjoyable activities both at home and in the wider community. Young people's talents are supported, and their interests and hobbies are actively encouraged.

The home provides young people with a physically safe, appropriately secure, warm and comfortable environment. However, the accommodation provided for young people could be further improved with some creativity and personalisation.

The home has addressed and met the requirements and recommendations from the last inspection. Missing from home interviews are now held. However, the frequency of some return home interviews could be improved. Relevant plans are in place for young people, and staff have improved the recording of restraints. As a result, restraint records are now compliant with regulation. The recording of young people's risk assessments and behaviour management plans now address their specific needs and emerging vulnerabilities.

The home employs a suitably qualified and experienced registered manager who demonstrates strong and effective leadership of the operation of the home. There are effective arrangements for reviewing and improving the standard and quality of young people's care. The home is visited monthly by an independent professional, who scrutinises the performance of the home and the arrangements that staff make to safeguard young people and promote their well-being. The registered manager makes good use of the home's monitoring activities to secure continuing improvement.

There are no breaches in regulation. Consequently, there are no requirements made as a result of this inspection.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
04/06/2018	Full	Good

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

Recommendations

- Children should be given a choice about how their personal space is decorated in accordance with regulation 7(2)(a)(i). ('Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards', page 16, paragraph 3.19)
- When a child returns to the home after being missing from care or away from the home without permission, the responsible local authority must provide an opportunity for the child to have an independent return home interview ('Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards', page 45, paragraph 9.30). This is with particular reference to ensuring a tight timescale for the completion of these interviews following the missing episode.

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: 1271135

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council

Registered provider address: Town Hall, Stockport, Cheshire SK1 3XE

Responsible individual: Jeanette Warburton

Registered manager: Laura Hopkinson

Inspector

Anthony Kyem, social care inspector

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