

Children's homes - interim inspection

Inspection date	21/01/2016
Unique reference number	SC005589
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home
Registered person	The Partnership of Care Today Children's Services
Registered person address	Lansdowne House, 85 Buxton Road, STOCKPORT, Cheshire, SK2 6LR

Responsible individual	Vivien Snape
Registered manager	Sarah Urie
Inspector	Anthony Kyem

Inspection date	21/01/2016
Previous inspection judgement	Outstanding
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 full inspection. At this interim inspection Ofsted judge that it has sustained effectiveness. There have been no new admissions, placement breakdowns, or failures since the previous inspection. Young people thrive and benefit from stable placements where they have consistency and stability in their lives. Young people are kept safe and have a strong sense of permanence and belonging. There is evidence of significant change and improvement for young people who make exceptional progress in relation to their individual starting points across all aspects of their welfare, physical, social, emotional and behavioural development. The progress young people make, is underpinned by the existence of exceptionally positive relationships with staff, who provide young people with effective, high quality support. Young people attend college regularly to further their learning and education. They are currently studying for careers in hair and beauty and public uniformed services. Their goals and aspirations are actively supported by staff who have consistently high aspirations for young people. Young people report, 'I still like it here because staff listen to you here and they take your opinions on board. I wouldn't have gone to College before, trust me. But I do and it's nice to have that support. They just know what they're doing, they're not stupid. They encourage us and are really easy to get on with...College is wicked. Love it. I like the people on my course and you want to be there. I don't think there's anything they could improve.' Staff are enthusiastic and deeply committed in achieving the best outcomes possible for young people. They provide them with the best possible help and support and make a positive and considerable difference to their lives. The Registered Manager is equally as enthusiastic and they channel staff's efforts effectively, providing clear purpose and direction. Young people benefit from exceptionally well planned, highly personalised care that promotes their needs effectively. There are effective arrangements for reviewing and improving, the standard and quality of young people's care. The manager routinely monitors the progress young	

people make in respect of their plans and involves them in their care to enable their positive and meaningful contribution. A young person made the following comments about their plans. 'I agree to everything written. I am now doing everything I can to help my present and future life. It's nice to see my progress.'

Risk taking behaviours that were a significant issue for young people previously are no longer an issue. For example, there are no issues, whatsoever with self-harm, drug use, anti-social behaviour or offending and young people do not go missing from care. Staff have a positive understanding of their needs and vulnerabilities and they take appropriate action, to address them. Young people become increasing safer as result of the actions staff take to support and protect them.

Young people report, 'I've been doing very good thanks. They're really supportive and have helped me through a lot of things. They sit with me, help calm me down and cuddle me. I have achieved my GCSE's and have emotional support. I can see things more clearly now, it's really good. They're funny, calm and brilliant.'

There have been no restraints, sanctions, complaints or allegations of abuse. There have been no significant incidents since the last inspection. The behaviour of both young people is extremely positive and this is testament to the home's leadership and staff. The home maintains highly effective partnerships with the police and placing authority to promote the safety and well-being of young people. The young people recently received a reward from the local police for their positive behaviour and the home received recognition for its positive work.

A new member of staff reports, 'I was a Police Community Support Officer for nine years before coming here. The girls are absolutely smashing. Everyone has good relationships...Sarah, the manager, is Fab...The girls are known to the police for all of the right reasons...At first they still saw the uniform but now they see me as staff.'

There are no requirements made as result of this inspection. However, there is one recommendation made in relation to the accommodation. While the home is warm, comfortable and homely the property itself, is old and in need of some refurbishment. The staff office, in particular, is small, untidy and cluttered which makes it difficult for staff to work in. The kitchen is looking old, dated and tired and in need of a refurbishment.

Information about this children's home

- The home is registered to provide care and accommodation for up to 2 young people who may have emotional and/or behavioural difficulties.
- The home is privately run and managed.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
05/08/2015	CH - Full	Outstanding
04/03/2015	CH - Interim	improved effectiveness
11/09/2014	CH - Full	Good
10/02/2014	CH - Interim	Good Progress

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

Recommendations

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

- provide a nurturing environment that is welcoming and supportive. Homes must also meet children's basic day to day needs and physical necessities. Staff should seek to meet the child's basic needs in the way that a good parent would, recognising that many children in residential care have experienced environments where these needs have not been consistently met – doing so is an important aspect of demonstrating that the staff care for the child and value them as an individual. This relates specifically to the refurbishment of the kitchen and office. (The Guide to the quality standards, page 15, paragraph 3.7).

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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