

Children's homes - interim inspection

Inspection date	02/03/2016
Unique reference number	SC008486
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	Gary Wood
Inspector	Jo Hornby

Inspection date	02/03/2016
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 This home was judged Good at the full inspection. At this interim inspection Ofsted judge that it has Sustained effectiveness. The requirement raised at the last inspection has been suitably addressed. The Registered Manager collaborated with safeguarding agencies to reduce future risks to young people. Health professionals provided training to the staff in relation to the age of consent, and the manager ensured that all staff revisited safeguarding policies and procedures. This will ensure that staff have sufficient knowledge and understanding of how to protect young people in their care. Since the last inspection the home has accommodated a number of emergency and short term placements. The manager ensured that young people were a suitable match with the other young people living in the home, and they were supported by staff to make good progress in many aspects of their development, such as education. Risk taking behaviour such as anti-social behaviour significantly reduced. Staff work effectively with young people and their families to build positive relationships and support them to prepare for independence; teaching cooking skills and how to budget. As a result some young people have moved back to their family homes or made successful transitions into semi-independent living. A social worker commented: 'I am very impressed with the work the manager and staff team have done in supporting X to make such good progress.' Young people who have recently arrived at the home say that staff made them feel welcome and provided them with personal items and information about the home. This gives them an understanding of what is expected of them, and what the home has to offer. A young person said: 'I have only just come here and staff seem nice and are helping me to get to know the area. They have given me information about the home. I know what to do if I need to make a complaint. Everything is there in my room.' The home's rewards system continues to be effective and is used to encourage young people to improve their behaviour. Staff consistently follow individual	

behaviour management plans and take a calm approach to de-escalate negative situations. This positive approach has reduced the number of incidents requiring physical intervention; which is used as a last resort to keep the young person, other young people and staff safe.

The manager and staff work collaboratively with safeguarding agencies to keep young people safe. They make every effort to locate young people when they go missing from the home. They actively search the area and their last known location. They identify triggers to this behaviour and consider alternative ways to manage their behaviour, such as engaging young people in activities. Return home interviews are not consistently undertaken by the young people's placing authorities. This means that staff are not able to consider the information from these interviews and put arrangements into place to protect each young person.

The staff team remains stable and consistent. The manager values the monthly quality assurance and monitoring systems to understand the strengths of the home, and where there are areas in need of development. The staff team are consistent in their care of young people and are proud of the achievements they make. They are well supported by their manager to deliver a good standard of care.

Information about this children's home

The home is registered to provide care and accommodation for up to six young people with emotional and behavioural difficulties. The home is privately owned.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
07/07/2015	CH - Full	Good
17/07/2014	CH - Full	Adequate
29/05/2014	CH - Full	Inadequate
06/03/2014	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):

- When a child returns to the home after being missing from 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.

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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