

Children's homes - interim inspection

Inspection date	22/03/2016
Unique reference number	SC021677
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	Mrs Vivien Snape
Registered manager	Mr Tony Garmory
Inspector	Maria McGranaghan

Inspection date	22/03/2016
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. Since the last inspection in January 2016 one young person has made the transition to supported independent living. Staff worked hard to secure accommodation near to the family home. This means the young person maintains beneficial links with those close to him and receives as much support as possible. Two young people currently reside at the home. Both have educational placements and are provided with additional support where necessary. Progress for one young person is good. He has established good routines and although he had been out of education for a considerable time, he now makes consistent progress in the education forum. For another young person educational progress is inconsistent. While staff ensure additional support measures are in place and communicate effectively with the educational provider, the young person's motivation to make lasting change is limited. The Registered Manager is proactive in addressing these issues with the placing authority in order that the young person receives a placement more suited to his individual needs. In the meantime, staff continue to help the young person develop confidence, self-esteem and the belief that he can achieve. Since the last inspection there has been an increase in young people being reported as missing. This is a result of an emergency placement with a history of being missing. The Registered Manager and staff work hard to minimize risk and to maintain his safety while he is away from the home. Consequently, the young person now keeps in regular contact with staff and informs them of where he is. Likewise, in order to reduce episodes of missing, staff work in partnership with parents and older siblings to support quality family contact on a regular basis. As a result, and in consideration of the starting point, the young person is now missing less frequently. Young people form and maintain genuine trusting relationships with staff. They	

have positive regard for staff and this is evidenced within the home's practice. For example the restorative approach favoured by staff has meant a continued decrease in aggressive behaviours. This enables young people to understand the potential impact of their behaviours on themselves and others. This method has proved successful as young people engage well in reflective sessions and feed-back their triggers to staff.

Young people who come to live at this home have experienced numerous placement breakdowns and have a history of non-engagement. The staff work very well with this group of young people. Basic routines and expectations ensure young people understand their responsibilities. Likewise, independence planning at an achievable level, enables young people to feel a sense of success. This impacts positively on their self-esteem and confidence.

The home is in the process of further developing resources for direct work and keywork sessions. Using the 'Good Lives' model staff are able to target sessions around behaviours, confidence and decision making. The Registered Manager said, 'We want to run a programme of work with young people and we feel we are heading in the right direction with our growing resources.'

At the last inspection the Registered Manager was asked to take account of two recommendations. Both matters have been suitably addressed. New bathroom locks are now fitted and the cracked bedroom window has been replaced. Records of homely medication now include the reason it has been administered.

The Registered Manager is preparing for a short period away from his post. The home will be supported by a Registered Manager from another of the organisation's homes and the deputy manager of this home. Details of the cover arrangements are to be forwarded to Ofsted in accordance with regulation.

Information about this children's home

The children's home is provided by an independent company and registered for four young people with emotional and behavioural difficulties and/or learning disabilities.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
19/01/2016	Full	Outstanding
26/02/2015	Interim	Improved Effectiveness
16/12/2014	Full	Good

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

There are no requirements or recommendations made at this inspection.

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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