

Children's homes - interim inspection

Inspection date	11/03/2016
Unique reference number	SC032475
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home
Registered person	Trafford Borough Council
Registered person address	Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council, Quay West, Trafford Wharf, Manchester, M17 1HH

Responsible individual	Gerard Crowther
Registered manager	Paul Maguire
Inspector	Anthony Kyem

Inspection date	11/03/2016
Previous inspection judgement	Outstanding
Enforcement action since last inspection	None
This inspection	Sustained effectiveness
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 this interim inspection Ofsted judge that it has sustained effectiveness. The home continues to benefit from a well-qualified, skilled, trained and extremely experienced Registered Manager who is passionate, consistently ambitious and enthusiastic about sustaining the home's improvement. They lead staff by example and they champion the needs of young people. They stimulate staff's enthusiasm and channel their efforts effectively. They provide them with clear purpose and direction and ensure the home is managed efficiently and effectively. This, in turn, enables staff to deliver high quality care and to promote positive outcomes for young people. There are effective arrangements for monitoring the home's activities. Independent visits are routinely undertaken to scrutinise the performance of the home. The Registered Manager makes good use of these activities to improve the standard and quality of young people's care. A different person is now employed to undertake these visits, however, there has been an oversight on their behalf in ensuring the reports are sent to Ofsted, each month. Consequently, a requirement is made in respect of this issue. The requirement from the last inspection has been addressed and met. Young people have now been consulted and all but one young person has since given their consent for the independent visitor to access their confidential records. Care planning is extremely well planned and practice is highly individualised to meet the needs of individual young people. The progress young people make and the outcomes they achieve are exceptionally positive. Highly effective partnerships are maintained with all professional agencies to ensure young people benefit from the best possible help, protection and support. Risk taking behaviours, such as going missing from care for long periods, offending, drug use and the risk of exploitation have reduced significantly and young people are less likely to suffer actual harm. Young people are kept safe and have a strong sense of personal safety. Young people make exceptional progress in relation to their individual starting points across all aspects of their welfare, physical, social, emotional and	

behavioural development. Staff actively encourage young people to attend school on a regular basis. They have consistently high aspirations for them and work closely with their schools to promote their educational achievement. The virtual school head reports, 'Staff are passionate champions of the education of the children. They doggedly pursue positive yet challenging relationships with children's education providers maintaining daily contact in many cases. They have high aspirations for the children and this seems an integral part of the home's ethos. The home is an excellent example of the way that residential homes should be working in conjunction with schools to promote the education of looked after children.'

Staff share and implement the home's ethos, approach and philosophy in how they care for young people. They influence the development of their positive behaviour and teach them how to resolve their conflicts positively. Staff use their relationships to deal effectively with any negative behaviour. Their approach is effective and there is evidence of behavioural change and improvement for young people. The use of restraint is rarely used or needed and the use of sanctions are kept to an absolute minimum. Restraint is only ever used as a last resort to protect young people from harm. There is effective use of praise, incentives and rewards. Staff routinely praise young people for their achievements, they acknowledge and focus on the development of their positive behaviour. Consequently, young people learn that positive behaviour is routinely praised, rewarded and recognised by staff.

Young people benefit from a homely, caring, supportive and nurturing environment. They receive continuity of care and have stability and consistency in their lives. There have been no new admissions, placement breakdowns or failures since the last inspection. Significant incidents are rare, but where they do occur, they are reported to the appropriate authorities charged with a duty to protect the young people. The home maintains highly effective partnerships with the police and other safeguarding agencies to promote the safety and well-being of young people.

Information about this children's home

This section should outline:

- The home is registered to provide care and accommodation for up to 5 children who may have emotional and/or behavioural difficulties.
- The home is owned and managed by the local authority.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
13/01/2016	CH-Full	Outstanding
06/03/2015	CH - Interim	sustained effectiveness
06/01/2015	CH - Full	Outstanding
19/02/2014	CH - Interim	Good Progress
16/12/2013	CH - Full	Outstanding

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

Statutory Requirements

This section sets out the actions which must be taken so that the registered person/s meets the Care Standards Act 2000, Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015 and the *Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards*. The registered person(s) must comply with the given timescales.

Requirement	Due date
44: Independent person: visits and reports. The registered person must ensure that an independent person visits the children's home at least once, each month. This relates specifically to the independent person providing a copy of the independent person's report to HMCI. (Regulation 44 (1) (7)).	30/04/2016

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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