

Children's homes - interim inspection

Inspection date	14/01/2016
Unique reference number	SC033326
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home
Registered person	Kirklees Council
Registered person address	Kirklees Council, 30 Market Street, HUDDERSFIELD, HD1 2HG

Responsible individual	Paul Johnson
Registered manager	Martin Steele
Inspector	Pauline Yates

Inspection date	14/01/2016
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 declined in effectiveness. Young people make variable progress at the home. For some, their commitment to engaging with the staff and participating in nurturing activities is positive. For others however, the staff are less successful in mitigating against external negative influences. This has led young people to be absent from the home and become involved in criminal offences. The majority of young people do not attend education. For some that are new to the home it is clear that this has been a pre-existing concern. However, staff have not made progress with those already settled at the home as they continue not to engage in education or training and have not done so for a prolonged period. Some young people do not have positive routines and spend long periods away from the home and from staff. This includes unauthorised overnight stays with friends or family. As a consequence, the positive influence and work that staff achieve with some young people is very limited. Some young people have transitioned from the home in an unplanned way. This has been the result of potentially dangerous behaviours posing a risk to not only their own welfare but also to others. A very serious incident was not escalated to the regulator. This may or may not have been identified in the independent person's reports however Ofsted have not had sight of these since July 2015. This does not ensure that the regulatory body has good oversight of the home and does not inspire confidence in the home. Although the manager has on-going mechanisms in place to review care that is provided, these are not sufficiently robust. Care plans that are not meeting the needs of young people have not been reviewed in a timely manner. In addition, some risk assessments are low in evaluation and require review. Such out of date records limit the staff teams understanding of potential risks and the impact that young people's behaviour may have on others. At the previous inspection one requirement relating to the completion of reviewing	

the location of the premises was made. This remains unmet. Two recommendations were also made relating to updating the statement of purpose and improving the décor of the home. These recommendations have been met with doors having been repainted, soft furnishings bought and the outside of the property being kept tidy. On the whole, young people benefit from a home that is well furnished and maintained. However, practical preparation of bedrooms for young people joining the home is not thorough. One young person commented that they were using a mattress from a previous occupant, and that it was stained.

Incidents of missing in general are low and when some young people are away from the home they do on the whole remain in contact with staff. Staff effectively utilise de-escalation techniques in managing potentially harmful and negative behaviours. One independent reviewing officer commented, 'They challenge his behaviour and they are clear about their responsibilities to challenge. They are able to do this really gently and do it in a way that respects him' and, 'They are clear with her whilst not being antagonistic about the boundaries.'

Some young people that are new to the home have made progress in some areas of their lives. They have shown a reduction in behaviour that is harmful to their physical and emotional welfare and incidents of self-harm for one young person have decreased. One young person commented, 'I do feel like I have settled down here and I do feel comfortable.'

Since the last inspection, some young people leaving the home have done so in a planned way. This has included successful rehabilitation to family members and transition to semi-independent facilities. Where young people have left the home in a planned way, staff have been fully involved helping to ensure a smooth transition.

Information about this children's home

The home is owned and operated by a local authority. It is registered to provide care and accommodation for six young people who experience behavioural and emotional difficulties.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
23/06/2015	Full	Good
16/01/2015	Interim	Sustained effectiveness
24/07/2014	Full	Good
04/02/2014	Interim	Inadequate Progress

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
The registered person must review the appropriateness and suitability of the location of the premises used for the purposes of the children's home at least once in every calendar year taking into account the requirement in regulation 12(2)(c) (the protection of children standard) (Regulation 46(1)) *	31/03/2016
8 The Education Standard 8. In order to meet the education standard, with particular reference to young people attending appropriate education, the registered person must ensure that staff: (iii) understand the barriers that each child may face and take appropriate action to help the child to overcome any such barriers; (iv) help each child to understand the importance and value of education, learning, training and employment.	05/02/16
The registered person must notify HMCI and each other relevant person without delay if- there is any other incident relating to a child which the registered person considers to be serious (Regulation 40 (4)(e))	29/01/2016

14 The care planning standard 14. In order to meet the care planning standard, with particular reference to the registered person seeking timely and robust review of care plans, the registered person must ensure- (2) (e) that the child's placing authority is contacted, and a review of that child's relevant plans is requested, if- (i) the registered person considers that the child is at risk of harm or has concerns that the care plan provided for the child's needs is adequate to meet the child's needs; (ii) the child is, or has been, persistently absent from the home without permission.	29/01/2016
The independent person must provide a copy of the independent person's report to HMCI. (Regulation 44 (7)(a))	29/01/2016

* These requirements are subject to statutory requirement notice.

Recommendations

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

- For children's home to be nurturing and supportive environments that meet the needs of children, they will, in most cases be homely, domestic environments (The Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, page 15, paragraph 3.9). With particular reference to the child's bedroom being fully prepared prior to their arrival and where appropriate new mattresses purchased for their use.
- The registered person should only accept placements for children where they are satisfied that the home can respond effectively to the child's assessed needs as recorded in the child's relevant plans and where they have fully considered the impact that the placement will have on the existing group. (The Guide to the Quality Standards, page 56, paragraph 11.4) With particular reference to impact assessments being clear in their analysis and evaluation of the impact upon children already resident at the home.

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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Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 1231
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
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