

Children's homes - interim inspection

Inspection date	09/02/2016
Unique reference number	SC033367
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	Margaret Lewis
Inspector	Pauline Yates

Inspection date	09/02/2016
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. Young people continue to make progress at the home in many areas of their lives. Those that have been at the home for some time, develop their aspirations for their futures. This is achieved through good educational attendance and the encouragement they receive from the staff. Staff support young people's individual interests and help them to maintain contact with people who are important to them. For some young people this has led to successful overnight contact and stronger familial links. They benefit from the high emotional regard that staff offer and this ensures they grow in self-esteem and confidence. Young people enjoy positive and trusting relationships with staff, and this makes them open to listening and applying the advice that is given. One independent reviewing officer commenting about the progress of a young person said, 'I can really see a difference in her.' Missing from home incidents remain low and infrequent from young people's starting points. When missing from home incidents do occur, the staff always try to remain in contact and follow the prescribed protocols and procedures. Staff work hard to keep young people safe, whilst recognising their growing desire to exercise increasing levels of independence. Young people are consistently supported to cease smoking and access specialist services. There have been no notifications or complaints since the previous inspection. There has been no incidents requiring physical intervention since April 2015. The most important and prevalent aspect of the care that is offered, is the high emotional regard that young people receive. They value the time that they spend with staff and there is a genuine warmth that is exchanged in their day-to-day interactions. Some staff however are less clear with regards to the written expectations about young people being in each other's rooms. This has led to minor incidents occurring that may have been avoided with greater clarity and direction. Young people that have left the home have done so due to concerns about their	

safety and welfare and the risks their behaviour posed to themselves. Young people new to the home have been welcomed and made to feel wanted.

At the previous inspection three requirements and one recommendation was made. The requirements have been met and as a result, the young people now benefit from a newly fitted kitchen that enhances the homely and welcoming feel. Staff have also received refresher safeguarding training. This ensures that their knowledge and understanding remains fresh and contemporary and young people's needs are met in this respect. The recommendation however has not yet been met with regards to ensuring that essential planning and assessment documents are received in a timely manner from the local authority. The absence of these documents limits the insight and care offered to young people new to the home.

The manager and staff work well with other agencies and professionals to ensure that young people receive the support and services they need. One social worker commented that the staff are, 'Proactive, particularly with education.' The manager has good monitoring systems in place. These enable her to make sure young people receive high quality care and any difficulties that emerge are addressed in a timely manner by the staff.

Information about this children's home

The home is run by a local authority and is registered to provide care for up to six children with emotional and behavioural difficulties.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
08/12/2015	Full	Good
12/03/2015	Interim	Sustained effectiveness
19/01/2015	Full	Good
21/08/2013	Interim	Good 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
14 The care planning standard 14. In order to meet the care planning standard, with particular reference to ensuring that relevant plans and assessments are secured from the local authority within a timely manner, the registered person must ensure that children (1)(a) receive effectively planned care in or through the children's home (2)(c) that each child's relevant plans are followed	29/02/2016

Recommendations

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

- The registered person is responsible for ensuring that all staff consistently follow the home's policies and procedures for the benefit of the children in the home's care. (The Guide to the Quality Standards, page 54 paragraph 10.20) With particular reference to staff being aware of policies of young people not being in each other's rooms and, any variance to this is discussed and agreed with the registered person.

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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