

SC033657

Registered provider: Leeds City Council

Interim inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home is operated by a local authority. The home uses an integrated treatment model and dialectical behaviour therapy (DBT). These are used to support young people to develop emotional resilience and build the skills they need to live independent lives. The home prepares young people for semi-independence. This home can accommodate a maximum of four young people irrespective of gender between the ages of 15 and 17 years old with varying abilities.

Inspection date: 5 March 2020

Date of last inspection: 2 April 2019

Judgement at last inspection: 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 last full inspection. At the interim inspection, Ofsted judges that it has sustained effectiveness.

The young people benefit from a caring and nurturing environment. They develop good relationships with the staff and respond well to the routines and boundaries that the staff encourage. Consequently, the young people increase their resilience, their behaviour improves, and they become more independent.

The young people cook regularly, they cycle or use public transport and find employment. They develop individual coping strategies to manage difficult feelings, for example regular exercise at the gym, relaxing baths and the use of essential oils.

The staff support the young people's education and help them to plan their future careers, such as footballing and joining the police.

The young people have a good say in the running of the home. They choose the decor, help assemble new furniture and have negotiated not having the wi-fi turned off. The timing of dialectical behaviour therapy DBT sessions has been altered to fit in with the young people's social and leisure activities.

The manager has complied with four out of the five requirements from the last inspection. The quality of matching assessments is better and shows that there is a good level of consideration about young people moving into the home. This helps minimise any potential negative effects of a group of young people living together.

The quality of diary records is better. In conjunction with the records of key-working and DBT skills sessions, the diary records now demonstrate the lived experiences of the young people. Their wishes and feelings are recorded and acted on. For example, the young people request wake-up calls and are supported to organise charity events that they have initiated.

Staff supervision now includes a discussion about the young people's needs, their progress and experiences. This helps keep the staff fully informed of young people's care plans and gives the staff opportunity to raise any concerns that they have about the young people.

The manager notifies Ofsted appropriately of any significant incidents affecting the welfare of the young people. He seeks advice from other registered managers and senior managers about this in order to comply with the regulation. He is open and transparent and shares information appropriately with other agencies. Social workers commented about the good level of communication from the staff and that there is good partnership working.

A formal management review of the (DBT) used, including consultation with the young people, has still not taken place. Although DBT is discussed regularly in residents' and team meetings, the lack of suitable evaluation means that the manager cannot evidence if it is having a positive effect or not.

There have only been a few occasions when the young people have been missing from the home or been under the influence of alcohol. The staff take appropriate action by implementing the young people's individual risk management strategies to help keep them safe. Discussions between the manager and the staff involved in two recent incidents have not been recorded. This limits the opportunity to share with the rest of the staff team any relevant lessons learned and whether future incidents could be avoided.

The staff review and update the written risk assessments relating to the vulnerabilities of the young people. The manager has not ensured that one of these risk assessments has been reviewed in relation to a specific risk about a new young person moving into the home. Although staff are aware of the risk, it is not clear what actions they are taking as a staff team to keep both young people safe.

The manager addresses concerns about staff practice. In one case, sufficient action has not been taken, which potentially leaves a young person and staff member at risk. During the inspection, the manager undertook to resolve this as soon as possible.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
02/04/2019	Full	Good
12/04/2018	Full	Requires improvement to be good
10/11/2017	Interim	Sustained effectiveness
11/07/2017	Full	Good

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

Statutory requirements

This section sets out the actions that the registered person(s) must take to meet 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 within the given timescales.

Requirement	Due date
The protection of children standard is that children are protected from harm and enabled to keep themselves safe. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure— that staff assess whether each child is at risk of harm, taking into account information in the child's relevant plans, and, if necessary, make arrangements to reduce the risk of any harm to the child. (Regulation 12(1) and (2)(a)(i)) In particular, ensure that written risk assessments include the potential risks that young people represent to each other and how staff are reducing the risks.	30/03/2020
The leadership and management standard is that the registered person enables, inspires and leads a culture in relation to the children's home that— helps children aspire to fulfil their potential; and promotes their welfare. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to— use monitoring and review systems to make continuous improvements in the quality of care provided in the home. (Regulation 13(1)(a)(b) and (2)(h)) In particular: ■ Undertake a review of the impact of DBT and include in the review the children's views and opinions. ■ Record debriefs of staff of their care practice when managing incidents in which children are at risk, and share any lessons learned with the staff team.	15/04/2020

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Ensure that the children, including children who have moved out of the home, contact staff via appropriate means and not by using staff personal mobile telephones. | |
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Information about this inspection

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.

Inspectors have looked closely at the experiences and progress of children and young people, using the 'Social care common inspection framework'. This inspection was carried out under the Care Standards Act 2000 to assess the effectiveness of the service, how it meets the core functions of the service as set out in legislation, 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.'

Children's home details

Unique reference number: SC033657

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Leeds City Council

Registered provider address: Merrion House, 7th Floor West, Merrion Centre,
Leeds LS2 8TU

Responsible individual: Stephen Walker

Registered manager: Andrew Magner

Inspector

Simon Morley: social care inspector

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