

Children's homes - interim inspection

Inspection date	17/02/2016
Unique reference number	SC034686
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home
Registered person	Durham County Council
Registered person address	County Hall, DURHAM, DH1 5UL

Responsible individual	Karen Robb
Registered manager	Mark Proffitt
Inspector	Colin Imrie

Inspection date	17/02/2016
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 improved effectiveness. The home continues to be run at a very high standard. No children or young people have been admitted to or discharged from the home since the last inspection and there have been no staff changes either. The five young people living at the home all continue to make progress. Some of them are making very good progress and others are making steady progress. One young person nearing their 18th birthday is continuing to do well at college and has plans to attend a higher level course at a different college next year. This young person is planning his move to supported lodgings and is well placed for this move. Another young person is also planning a move to supported lodging shortly and is similarly well placed. This young person continues successfully in his apprenticeship and despite being offered other apprenticeships is hoping to continue at a higher level apprenticeship in his current workplace. This is very positive. Both these young people want to take care choosing their lodgings and staff are supportive of this process. Two young people still attend school and are both doing well, one has made excellent progress and is described as being a star pupil at the school. All the young people are continuing to develop their contact with their families where this is possible. Staff continue to support this well. There has been other progress as well. Two of the older young people have a history of taking drugs and there are clear signs that this has reduced significantly. One young person who was quite isolated socially has made good progress with making new friends and is now much more socially active. Other young people are working on other issues in their lives with support from staff and external workers and professionals. One young person is heavily involved the Investors in Children process and has attended a number of meetings. The home continues to be a safe place for the young people. Staff give clear boundaries and expectations and work in restorative ways. Consequently there is very little need for sanctions to be used and no need for physical interventions since the last inspection. The only complaint has been from a neighbour who had	

some snowball thrown at his house by two of the young people. The manager was quick to address and resolve this issue. Perhaps the only concern is that two of the older young people continue to be missing quite often. Both young people live locally and as such have friends and partners living locally. Although staff know where they are on these occasions they continue to work with them to keep them safe rather than getting into negative disputes. This approach is positive and does keep them safe.

The registered manager continues to lead the home well. Staff say they are well supported. The home is well maintained and well-kept and there are a number of new developments taking place to further improve the home manager. The young people and staff have further developed their bike project and are planning further cycle trips. One member of staff has developed a project designed to increase awareness of other cultures and celebrations and the manager continues to develop their links with a local university and has started two research projects on identity and resilience. The manager continues to monitor the overall care of the young people and is proficient at engaging external professional where necessary.

There were no requirements or recommendations made at the last inspection and none are made at this one.

Information about this children's home

The home is run by a local authority and is registered for the care and accommodation of up to five children with emotional and/or behavioural difficulties (EBD) or learning disabilities (LD)

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
08/12/2015	CH - Full	Outstanding
25/03/2015	CH - Interim	improved effectiveness
05/01/2015	CH - Full	Good
06/03/2014	CH - Interim	Good Progress

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

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