

SC034922

Registered provider: Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council

Interim inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home is run by a local authority, and provides care and accommodation to four young people. Young people placed at the home may be traumatised, have been subjected to abuse or be misunderstood. They will be provided with a stable and caring environment to develop their potential.

The manager commenced work in the home on 9 November 2015 and she registered with Ofsted on 25 August 2016.

Inspection date: 27 February 2019

Judgement at last inspection: good

Date of last inspection: 30 April 2018

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 improved effectiveness.

The young people continue to make exceptional progress from the time when they came to live in the home. There have been no admissions or discharges since the last inspection. Young people have flourished and responded positively to the stability that the home, the management team and staff provide to them. Where young people are in transition and preparing to move on, they are supported by the staff team. Outreach work has been agreed for one young person to ensure that her move into adulthood from this stable environment does not have any negative impact on her.

The motivated staff have trusting relationships with the young people, who have experienced multiple placement disruptions. Young people speak freely and openly with the managers and staff, and they have respect for each other. Young people are confident and able to inform the staff if something is concerning them.

The staff work in partnership with external professionals to ensure that the young people make progress in respect of their education, health and social development. This has proven challenging for the staff, at times, due to the reluctance of some young people to fully engage in education or employment. The staff do not give up on young people. Staff have positively encouraged the young people's education, employment, independence and life skills, irrespective of the challenges faced.

The health needs of the young people are responded to appropriately. The staff encourage and support the young people to attend appointments. Young people did not previously engage with health professionals. This support has improved the young people's emotional, social and psychological well-being.

Young people enjoy a range of activities that support a healthy lifestyle, as well as providing opportunities to enjoy themselves and gain a sense of achievement. Young people have experienced short breaks and holidays with the staff, and plans are in place for young people to travel abroad during the summer break.

There have been no complaints since the last inspection and no complaints were raised by young people during this inspection. The home provides young people with a physically safe, appropriately secure, warm, comfortable and homely environment. Health and safety arrangements are managed effectively, and this ensures that a safe environment is provided for young people, staff and visitors.

Young people's safety is managed well, both in and outside of the home. The registered manager, deputy manager and staff are effective in the monitoring of all safeguarding concerns and they take responsive action to manage and minimise risk. Consequently, since the last full inspection there has been a significant reduction in young people being missing from the home on consecutive days. The young people told the inspector that they value the home and the staff who care for them and that they always return to the home after seeing their friends.

There have been no incidents where physical intervention has been used. Also, the manager's safeguarding chronology for each young person quickly identifies where risks have reduced or increased. This information is consistently shared at multi-agency meetings to ensure that all concerns are addressed quickly. These arrangements contribute to monitoring, supporting and reducing the risk of young people who are involved in criminal activity.

The staff make up a consistent, experienced and qualified team. They continually strive for improvement. They work effectively together with the registered manager and deputy manager to provide continuity of care to the young people. The staff told the inspector that they receive training in the topics that they need to provide good-quality

care. Staff receive regular supervision, appraisals and use reflection sessions to provide consistent responses to the young people's needs.

The registered manager has developed an efficient system for gathering data that enables her to monitor patterns and trends and aids her review of the quality of care in the home. The data seen during the inspection evidence this. The data shows that the young people in the home are settled and making progress.

The registered manager, deputy manager and staff have developed excellent relationships with a variety of partner agencies, including social workers, advocates, police, education services and parents. The registered manager escalates concerns appropriately and is an enthusiastic advocate for the young people. She holds partner agencies to account so that the young people receive the very best care.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
30/04/2018	Full	Good
24/07/2017	Full	Requires improvement to be good
30/03/2017	Interim	Sustained effectiveness
20/09/2016	Full	Good

Information about this inspection

Inspectors have looked closely at the experiences and progress of children and young people. Inspectors considered the quality of work and the difference made to the lives of children and young people. They watched how professional staff work with children and young people and each other and discussed the effectiveness of help and care provided. Wherever possible, they talked to children and 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 whom 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.

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: SC034922

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider address: Number One Riverside, Smith Street, Rochdale
OL16 1XU

Responsible individual: Jill McGregor

Registered manager: Melanie Ambrose

Inspector

Mark Kersh, social care inspector

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