

Children's homes - interim inspection

Inspection date	03/02/2016
Unique reference number	SC034953
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home
Registered person	Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council
Registered person address	Northgate House, Northgate, Halifax, West Yorkshire, HX1 1UN

Responsible individual	Gary Pickles
Registered manager	Aaron McLoughlin
Inspector	Pauline Yates

Inspection date	03/02/2016
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 good progress through living at the home. When progress slows or falters, staff are proactive and work hard to ensure the factors influencing young people are fully understood. The staff are committed to working with young people and supporting them to safely, self-manage the external influences in their lives. This positively contributes to young people's growing independence and their need and desire to exercise greater levels of decision-making. Through the patience and reliability of the staff, young people experience trusting relationships with adults. One social worker commented, 'He hasn't had good positive role models in his life, which the staff here provide.' Young people new to the home make significant progress and they experience good quality care that meets their immediate needs. One social worker commented, 'We have noticed a complete change, he is more vibrant. Even the previous social worker noticed the change in him. All his needs are being met.' A teacher commented, 'Before X was moved he was very anxious, running away, very withdrawn, very unhappy. But now, week on week, he is more relaxed, his face is more open, he smiles a lot. He says he is happy and presents as happy. You can't learn if you're unhappy.' When young people have left the home, these decisions have been appropriately made in response to safeguarding issues. Staff and the manager liaise effectively with other professionals regarding the decision-making and the staff remain suitably involved with parents and young people when they leave the home. Physical restraint is only used if all other means of de-escalation are not successful in preventing injury or serious damage. The registered manager has good systems in place for monitoring both the overall care that is offered to young people, and the approaches employed to promote positive behaviour. This effective evaluation has achieved significant work with one young person about the measures used by the staff to help him manage his anger. One social worker commented, 'There have been challenging incidents and they have managed it really well. This is a safe place for him, and he says it is a safe place for him.'	

Incidents of restraint are recorded in detail and young people's views are always sought. However, incidents actively involving the registered manager have not had timely oversight by another individual, as authorised by the registered person. Although this does not directly impact upon young people's welfare, it limits oversight of the events. Incidents requiring notification to the regulatory body have been made in a timely manner by the staff and there have been no complaints since the previous inspection.

The staff and manager act as good advocates for young people and appropriately challenge other agencies to ensure their health and educational needs are met. Professionals consider that staff and the manager work well in partnership, and young people's needs are holistically met as a result of this active team work.

The previous inspection raised two recommendations and one requirement. The recommendations related to the repair or refurbishment of the home's bathrooms and evaluative recording in daily diaries. The former of these recommendations has not been met. Since the last inspection, young people's bedroom décor and repair has not been sufficiently maintained. For example, damage to plaster work has been roughly and unprofessionally repaired. The latter recommendation has been met and the manager is in the process of both streamlining and improving further the recording systems for staff. These systems however require embedding to ensure that information regarding the progress for young people is fully recorded.

The requirement relating to the matters to be reported on in the independent visitor's report has now been met.

Information about this children's home

This children's home is operated by the local authority. It provides care and accommodation for up to five young people with emotional and behavioural difficulties.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
25/11/2015	Full	Good
02/02/2015	Interim	Sustained effectiveness
08/08/2014	Full	Good
18/12/2013	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
The registered person must ensure that within 48 hours of the use of the measure, the registered person, or a person who is authorised by the registered person to do so ("the registered person") has spoken to the user about the measure; and has signed the record to confirm it is accurate; and within 5 days of the use of the measure, the registered person or the authorised person adds to the record confirmation that they have spoken to the child about the measure. (Regulation 35(2)(b)(I)(ii)(c)) In particular, that when the registered manager has been active in the measure of control, that the registered individual or someone authorised by them, completes these requirements.	29/02/2016
6 The quality and purpose of care standard 6. In order to meet the quality and purpose of care standard, with particular reference to the repair or refurbishment of young people's bedrooms and bathrooms, the registered person must ensure that the premises used for the purposes of the home are designed and furnished so as to meet the needs of each child. (Regulation 6(2)(c)(i))	31/05/2016

Recommendations

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

- Staff should be familiar with the home's policies on record keeping and understand the importance of careful, objective and clear recording. (The Guide to the Quality Standards, page 62 paragraph 14.4) In particular, records should accurately reflect and capture information that reflects young people's 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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