

Children's homes – Interim inspection

Inspection date	09/02/2017
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	Anne Tully
Registered manager	Aaron McLoughlin
Inspectors	Stella Henderson Catherine Sikakana

Inspection date	09/02/2017
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 judges that it has improved effectiveness. Young people continue to make very good progress, relative to their starting points. Several young people have joined the home since the last inspection. These transitions have been successful because they have been carefully planned, with consideration of how new admissions will affect the compatibility of the group. Before the young people move to the home, they and their families or carers are visited by staff to help to prepare them for living at the home. On the rare occasions when young people are admitted to the home in an emergency, their need for safety and security is immediately met and their health and cultural needs swiftly identified. All young people attend some form of education provision. This again is an area of significant improvement for some young people, who previously have had little or no engagement in education. Although attendance can still fluctuate occasionally, all young people are in the type of provision that best meets their needs. Young people are protected because there is an excellent awareness of the risk factors associated with missing from home, drug use and child sexual exploitation. When such risks emerge, they are quickly addressed and, as a result, are significantly reduced. Young people's challenging behaviour is, slowly but surely, being brought under control, and the number of violent incidents is diminishing. The strong emphasis on restorative justice continues to have real impact, helping young people to develop empathy and insight into their behaviour, and so arrive at better decision-making. The use of physical restraint is kept to a minimum. A contingency plan is now in place for a senior manager to review those physical restraint incidents in which the manager may be involved. This is a requirement from the last inspection that is now met. Staff make good use of tools such as 'time lines' to graphically illustrate young people's significant life events, and the often negative effect of those events on young people's emotional responses and psychological development. This innovative practice gives staff a greater understanding of young people's behaviour and attachment needs. It helps to inform staff practice and produce more effective behaviour management strategies. Young people have enjoyed further positive developments since the last inspection,	

such as an increase in the frequency of contact with family and improvement in the quality of those relationships. Some have had 'first time' experiences, such as joining a football team.

Staff continue to provide support for young people once they have left the home, extending this help to their families if required. This is an example of the highly effective partnership working between the home and parents, carers and other professionals.

The manager knows each young person, their circumstances and personalities very well. He exercises clear leadership and closely monitors young people's progress and development. He and the staff team respond swiftly and often creatively to any areas for development that will improve the quality of care for young people. This includes learning from inspection and the independent visitor's assessment of the running of the home.

As a result, all the requirements and recommendations made at the last inspection are met, leading to improvements in life-story work, internet safety, staff training, the independent visitor's report and the notification of significant incidents.

Information about this children's home

The home is owned and run by a local authority. It is registered to provide care and accommodation for up to five children who have emotional and/or behavioural difficulties.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
07/06/2016	Full	Good
03/02/2016	Interim	Sustained effectiveness
25/11/2015	Full	Good
02/02/2015	Interim	Sustained effectiveness

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 that 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 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.

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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