

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC035154
Inspector	Stella Henderson
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	Victoria Michelle Phillips
Date of last inspection	04/09/2014

Inspection date	19/12/2014
Previous inspection	adequate
Enforcement action since last inspection	none

This inspection

This home was judged adequate at the last full inspection. At this interim inspection Ofsted judge that it has **sustained effectiveness**.

Overall a satisfactory quality of care has been maintained. A combination of new admissions to the home and very challenging behaviour means that the home is less settled than it was at the last inspection. Boundaries are tested by young people as they adapt to living in care, some for the first time. Some safeguarding issues have emerged as a result but these have been met with an immediate response. Allegations have been referred to the appropriate authorities and fully investigated. The regulator has been promptly informed of all notifiable incidents.

Young people who have been at the home for some time continue to make satisfactory, and in some cases improved, progress and stability. Young people who are new to the home have had their immediate needs appropriately assessed and areas of concern have been given full consideration. For example, prompt advice and support has been provided for a range of issues, such as contraception.

All young people attend some form of education and continue to be in good health. When minor ailments arise they receive prompt treatment. Others with substance misuse issues get the help and support they need to reduce their dependency.

Young people continue to have a voice in their care planning. Effective work with family members remains a focus of work and this supports ongoing contact arrangements. Child protection considerations are given consistent priority in these situations. There have been no incidents of bullying since the last inspection.

Partnership working on safeguarding matters continues to be effective, particularly for young people who are in high-risk categories. There have been no missing from home incidents since the last inspection but the number of unauthorised absences continues to fluctuate for some young people.

The Registered Manager demonstrates pro-active leadership and a hands-on approach to managing the home. This gives her a good understanding of the strengths and needs of the home and a chance to observe and monitor a good deal of staff practice.

As a result one of the main areas identified for improvement is the continued poor performance and commitment of a small number of staff. An additional plan is in place which identifies and sets deadlines for addressing these matters. This includes targeted supervisions and consideration of disciplinary action. Some staff have already been redeployed and new staff are in the process of being appointed.

At the last inspection the provider was asked to address matters relating to bullying and substance misuse, and seek further clarification about examinations. These have been met. A recommendation to address specific recording issues in relation to health assessments, contact arrangements, care plans and risk assessments has also been met.

The accurate and timely recording of specific events and day-to-day issues, particularly where dates and signatures are concerned, remains an area for improvement. An action is set to reinforce the requirement to ensure that all records for young people are accurately and fully maintained.

Information about this children's home

The children's home is provided by a local authority. It is registered to provide care for up to five young people of either gender, who may have emotional or behavioural difficulties.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
04/09/2014	Full	adequate
18/07/2014	Full	inadequate
10/02/2014	Interim	inadequate progress
21/05/2013	Full	good

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

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 Regulations 2001 and the National Minimum Standards. The registered person(s) must comply with the given timescales.

Reg.	Requirement	Due date
28 (2001)	maintain in respect of each child who is accommodated at the home a record in permanent form which is kept up to date and is signed and dated by the author of each written entry. (Regulation 28)(b)(c)	23/01/2015

What inspection judgements mean

At the interim inspections 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

The purpose of this inspection is to assure children and young people, parents, the public, local authorities and government of the quality and standard of the service provided. The 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 relevant regulations and meets the national minimum standards.

The report details the main strengths, any areas for improvement, including any breaches of regulation, and any failure to meet national minimum standards. The judgements included in the report are made against the framework of inspection for children's homes.