

Children's homes - interim inspection

Inspection date	12/02/2016
Unique reference number	SC035155
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	Jane Stanley
Inspector	Stella Henderson

Inspection date	12/02/2016
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 sustained effectiveness. The home continues to provide an outstanding short break service. Since the last inspection, children and young people have engaged in familiar and new activities, for example visiting a splash pool. This was a new experience for the young people who attended. Staff remain alert for opportunities where young people can try new things and boost their self-esteem. For example, one young person was supported to enter a national competition for looked after children to share their experiences and has been successful in the first stage of this process. The safeguarding of children and young people remains the home's highest priority. There are no concerns about sexual exploitation. Any safeguarding concerns are promptly escalated for investigation. Children and young people are not able to go missing during their short breaks. This is because they are closely supervised both within the home and when out on activities. Challenging behaviour is managed well and without the need for physical restraint. Partnership working with parents and other professionals on this and other matters remains constant, consistent and effective. Fund-raising aimed specifically at including male carers has been particularly successful. The home continues to be a positive presence in the wider community. For example, laundry facilities were offered to people during the recent floods. The manager and staff have also offered their expertise, knowledge and skills to other professionals to help them improve their practice. Staff have further increased their skills by learning British Sign Language. This will add to their already extensive range of alternative methods of communication. Effective monitoring by the manager and independent visitor ensures that high standards and excellent quality of care is maintained. The manager has taken effective action to address the recommendation made at the last inspection. This was to ensure the statement of purpose addressed all the points outlined in the regulations. This assists the home, and others, to hold the service to account.	

Information about this children's home

This is a local authority short break children's home. It is registered to provide short breaks for up to six children with physical and learning disabilities.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
14/12/2015	Full	Outstanding
06/02/2015	Interim	Improved effectiveness
15/10/2014	Full	Good
13/02/2014	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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