

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC035339
Inspector	Sarah Oldham
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Registered person	Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council
Registered person address	Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council, Civic Centre West Street OLDHAM OL1 1UT
Responsible individual	Kim Scragg
Registered manager	Sally Hallwood
Date of last inspection	30/09/2014

Inspection date	11/02/2015
Previous inspection	outstanding
Enforcement action since last inspection	none

This inspection

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

The Registered Manager and staff at the home continue to support young people to achieve excellent outcomes. Robust review and evaluation of the support provided ensures young people's experiences and outcomes remain central to the ethos of the home and standard of care provided.

Young people's individual needs are identified, and detailed placement plans reflect the care and support to be provided to enable young people to develop and progress. These plans are discussed and reviewed with young people on a monthly basis and reflect individual achievements, short term goals and longer term plans. This enables young people to contribute their views and fully engage in their placement. Strong interagency partnership provides consistency and stability for young people. Staff build excellent rapport with young people to enable them to feel safe, well cared for and confident to share their views and opinions. This further contributes to stability of placement. One young person said 'I really like this home, it feels like a home. The manager and staff care about me and never stop helping me to plan for my future.'

All young people are in education, further education or accessing apprenticeships. Bespoke timetables and courses enable young people to progress and achieve qualifications for their future. One young person said 'I tried several courses but I have found something I really enjoy and want to follow this as a career.'

Health care needs of young people continue to be supported well. All young people are registered with health care professionals and attend appointments to promote their general health. In addition, the home has excellent links with external agencies to ensure specialist health care assessments are sourced to explore specific health care needs. This includes psychological assessment and access to therapeutic work to support emotional as well as physical health care needs.

Young people say they feel safe at the home. They know who they can approach if they need to discuss issues that concern or worry them. Staff continue to clearly identify risk and manage challenging behaviour calmly and thoughtfully. Young people respond well to boundaries being set for them. As a result the need for sanctions is minimal with no incidences of physical intervention for over twelve months. There have been some incidences of unauthorised absence but these remain low with strategies reviewed to reduce these further. Detailed risk assessments in place are followed and reviewed to promote young people's safety.

At the previous inspection, there were no requirements or recommendations made. However, this does not mean the Registered Manager and staff are not looking at ways to continually improve the service. Training and development for staff is ongoing along with regular supervisions and team meetings. This enables good practice to be discussed and shared. This further contributes to the consistency of practice to enhance young people's development and life skills.

External monitoring of the home, along with the Registered Managers monitoring and evaluation continues to help the home to provide effective support and improve outcomes for young people.

Information about this children's home

This children's home is owned and managed by a local authority. The home can accommodate seven young people and has been set up specifically to provide care to young people with emotional or behavioural difficulties. It is anticipated that young people will live at the home on a medium to long term basis.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
30/09/2014	Full	outstanding
25/03/2014	Interim	good progress
23/01/2014	Full	outstanding
21/03/2013	Interim	good progress

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.