

Children's homes - interim inspection

Inspection date	29/12/2015
Unique reference number	SC036026
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home
Registered person	Sheffield City Council
Registered person address	Sheffield City Council, Town Hall, Pinstone Street, SHEFFIELD, S1 2HH

Responsible individual	Dorne Collinson
Registered manager	Patrick McGeeney
Inspector	Stella Henderson

Inspection date	29/12/2015
Previous inspection judgement	Requires improvement
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 Requires improvement at the full inspection. At this interim inspection Ofsted judge that it has declined in effectiveness.	
The home is judged as having declined in effectiveness because safeguarding practice has failed to adequately protect young people. Requirements and recommendations set at the last inspection have not been fully met. A requirement made at the last inspection to improve risk assessments has not been fully met. No risk assessments have been undertaken on two new admissions to the home about whom there was minimal background information. No safeguarding questions were asked about the suitability of the placement. There was no impact assessment or discussion with young people about how they may keep themselves safe. Although a member of staff explained that these things had been done, no recording could be found to evidence this. As a result, one young person suffered a serious assault and one young person had to be moved from the home. A recommendation was made at the last inspection to ensure that information about young people was kept up to date and to hand. The lack of documentation relating to impact assessments and safeguarding work with young people demonstrates that this recommendation has not been met. A requirement is now set to improve recording practice and to fulfil young people's right to have information about them recorded consistently and in a timely way. Action has been taken to reduce the risk for one young person becoming involved in petty criminal behaviour and missing from home incidents. This is because in this case the quality of the risk assessment, and more creative thinking about how to address the risks, has been more effective. Two young people have left the home since the last inspection. These were unplanned endings and in both cases the young people had lived at the home only a few weeks. Although staff said that the reasons for these placement breakdowns had been reflected upon, there was no evidence of a systematic review. This makes it difficult for the manager and staff to learn from these events and reduce	

the risk of disrupted placements in the future.

The registered manager considers all available information to inform his decision on whether to admit young people to the home. There is a clear process of analysis and reasoning for refusing some admissions. The rationale for accepting new placements is not as apparent. The impact on young people already living at the home is not fully evaluated and it is not clear what weight is given to the opinion of other professionals. This makes it difficult to assess whether these are appropriate matches for the existing group of young people.

A recommendation to improve monitoring in order to better identify patterns and trends has improved. However, the manager's six monthly monitoring report has limited evaluation of the impact of care on outcomes and progress for young people. It does not set clear actions for the next six months and it is hard to see how the views of others have contributed to this monitoring process. A copy of the report has not been received by HMCI.

Young people who are new to the home are given good support to settle in and adjust to living in a new environment. Community and language resources have been found to ensure their religious and cultural needs are met. Basic health needs have been immediately addressed. There is effective use of information cards to assist in communication. This is helping young people, who do not have English as a first language, to make their needs and views understood.

A requirement to amend the home's Statement of Purpose has been met, along with recommendations to improve practice where missing from home incidents are concerned.

Young people have improved their attendance at school. Offending behaviour has reduced and young people are less likely to put themselves at risk by going missing from the home. Behaviour overall has improved and the need for restraint is minimal.

There are effective working partnerships with placing social workers and a wide range of other agencies, such as the police and health services. There has been particularly successful work with education and training providers. This is helping young people get more from their education and prepare for the world of work.

Improvements have been made to property. This includes the conversion of a gym room to an education room and a prayer room. This allows young people to focus better on their education and pursue their religious beliefs.

Information about this children's home

This is a local authority children's home. It is registered to take up to five children with emotional and behavioural difficulties.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
30/06/2015	Full	Requires improvement
24/02/2015	Interim	declined in effectiveness
09/05/2014	Full	Good
16/12/2013	Interim	Inadequate 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
12: The protection of children standard (1) The protection of children standard is that children are protected from harm and enabled to keep themselves safe. (2) In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure- (a) that staff – (i) assess whether each child is at risk of harm, taking into account information in the child's relevant plans and, if necessary, make arrangements to reduce the risk of any harm to the child (ii) help each child to understand how to keep safe	29/01/2016
The registered person must maintain records ('case records') for each child which- are kept up to date (Regulation 36)(1)(b)	29/01/2016
The registered person must- supply to HMCI a copy of the quality of care review report within 28 days of the date on which the quality of care review is completed (Regulation 45(4)(a)) The system referred to in paragraph (2) must provide for ascertaining and considering the opinions of children, their parents, placing authorities and staff (Regulation 45(5))	29/01/2016

Recommendations

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

- The registered person should make best use of information from internal monitoring to ensure continuous improvement. They should be skilled in anticipating and reviewing incidents, such as learning from disruptions and placement breakdowns. (The Guide to the Quality Standards, page 55, paragraph 10.24)
- The registered person should only accept placements for children where they are

satisfied that the home can respond effectively to the child's assessed needs as recorded in the child's relevant plans and where they have fully considered the impact that the placement will have on the existing group of children. (The Guide to the Quality Standards, page 56, paragraph 11.4)

- The registered person should undertake a review that focuses on the quality of the care provided by the home, the experiences of children living there and the impact the care is having on outcomes and improvements for the children. The report should clearly identify any actions required for the next 6 months of delivery within the home and how those actions will be addressed. (The Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, page 65 paragraph 15.4)

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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