

Children's homes - interim inspection

Inspection date	23/02/2016
Unique reference number	SC036584
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home
Registered person	Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council
Registered person address	Walsall Children's Services, Civic Centre, WALSALL, West Midlands, WS1 1DB

Responsible individual	Alison Cooper
Registered manager	Jason Grainger
Inspector	Jo Stephenson

Inspection date	23/02/2016
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 judge that it has improved effectiveness. The home was last inspected in September 2015. At this time three requirements and one recommendation were made. The registered manager has taken robust action to address these shortfalls. Furthermore, improvements to other areas of practice mean that young people continue to make positive and sustainable progress. Young people are now fully involved in decisions about their day-to-day care and longer term support needs. Their views, wishes, and opinions are included in internal care plans, behaviour plans and risk assessments. These improvements to consultation means that young people engage with the placement, and work in partnership with staff to move forward with their lives. Staff continue to develop feedback systems to gather young people's views and thoughts about the care they receive and the overall development of the service. Young people are encouraged to communicate their likes and dislikes about the home, and comment on the actions and practice of staff. This open and transparent approach to evaluating the service means that young people's feedback is central to the on-going development of the home. Young people enjoy immensely positive relationships with staff. These are utilised to support young people to engage in regular one-to-one sessions. Staff use these sessions to discuss a varied range of topics including young people's personal development, individual targets and overall progress. Since the last inspection, staff ensure that they use these sessions to challenge any unacceptable behaviours, such as bullying. This means that young people are able to recognise and understand the detrimental impact their behaviours may have on others. Incidents of unacceptable or risk taking behaviours have continued to decline. The use of physical restraint has reduced. When it has been necessary to use this measure of control to maintain safety, staff ensure that young people's views and comments are including in the records of these events. This means that the registered manager is able to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the use of	

physical restraint. This promotes young people's safety in the home.

There have been no occasions of young people going missing from the home since the last inspection. Staff work in partnership with young people, allocated social workers, families and other agencies. They advocate for suitable contact arrangements for young people that meet their needs and take account of their views and wishes. As a result, young people are not isolated from their families. Furthermore, they are encouraged to socialise with their friends in the community and take responsibility for their 'free-time'. Young people's friends are welcomed into the home and staff facilitate a range of stimulating and enjoyable activities. This means young people learn necessary social interaction skills and grow in confidence and self-esteem.

Young people continue to make notable and sustainable progress in all aspects of their development. All young people have suitable education or college placements and their improved attendance and personal achievements are outstanding. For some young people this means that they now travel independently to and from school, taking responsibility for their school attendance and their own safety. Staff work with young people to highlight potential risks and consider strategies to manage these. This increasing level of independence is age appropriate and proportionate to young people's cognitive skills and abilities. As other young people progress towards independent living, staff assist them with budgeting and domestic tasks, and provide emotional support. This means that young people develop a realistic view of the skills they need to live independently.

Staff continue to work with other professionals to ensure that they support young people's health needs. They liaise with mental health professionals to enable young people to access the specialist services they require.

The registered manager has made significant improvements to internal monitoring systems since the last inspection. These are now linked to any significant events that occur in the home and identify any patterns and trends. This assessment considers potential antecedents that unsettle young people's behaviours. In addition to enabling the registered manager to effectively monitor the on-going development of the home, these improvements mean that he is able to evaluate staff practice and performance. This supports young people's safety, well-being and overall progress.

Information about this children's home

The home provides care and accommodation for up to four young people with emotional and/or behavioural difficulties. The home is owned and operated by a local authority.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
15/09/2015	CH - Full	Good
16/03/2015	CH - Interim	Improved effectiveness
29/08/2014	CH - Full	Good
18/03/2014	CH - 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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