

Inspection report for children's home

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| <b>Unique reference number</b> | SC040509          |
| <b>Inspector</b>               | Maria McGranaghan |
| <b>Type of inspection</b>      | Interim           |
| <b>Provision subtype</b>       | Children's home   |

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|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Registered person</b>         | Salford City Council                                      |
| <b>Registered person address</b> | Civic Centre, Chorley Road, Swinton<br>MANCHESTER M27 5DA |
| <b>Responsible individual</b>    | Michael Kelly                                             |
| <b>Registered manager</b>        | Vicki Ann Blood                                           |
| <b>Date of last inspection</b>   | 12/09/2014                                                |

|                        |            |
|------------------------|------------|
| <b>Inspection date</b> | 11/03/2015 |
|------------------------|------------|

|                                          |             |
|------------------------------------------|-------------|
| 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 **declined in effectiveness**.

At the last full inspection on 12 September 2014 the home was judged as outstanding with one recommendation made in relation to the décor of the kitchen following a leak. The kitchen has now been fully refurbished including décor and furnishings.

Since the inspection two young people have made a successful transition into post sixteen placements. There are two new residents to the home.

Most young people continue to make good progress in the home. There is a strong and stable staff team who are led by an enthusiastic and conscientious Registered Manager.

For young people with a history of educational disruption, this home truly goes the extra mile. However, decisions taken by senior management to make placements have proven difficult, particularly with respect to engaging in any form of education. Although the manager and staff have sought out a range of interesting opportunities, they are not accessed by all young people and therefore this limits their future life chances of gaining meaningful employment.

Most young people are settled and happy in the home. However, during a settling period for new residents, episodes of young people absenting themselves increased. The manager and staff worked well with external safeguarding agencies to secure their safe return and reduce the risks. However, one young person is frequently absent from the home and refuses to engage with staff. The manager said, 'We are unable to keep him safe because of his lack of engagement. We have tried everything but it is very difficult.' Senior managers say, 'We wanted this young person to benefit from a nurturing environment, we understand that it has not been successful.' Consequently, some young people are frequently at risk as a result of

prolonged episodes of being absent from the home.

Individual behaviour management plans support most young people to make effective changes to how they manage and respond to situations. For example, young people with a history of demanding and challenging behaviours have learned to control their initial feeling and respond in a more acceptable manner. However, some young people display highly challenging and aggressive behaviour resulting in a serious assault on staff. The manager says, 'Where there is no relationship or commitment from young people, it is difficult to implement the structures we have in place.' Senior managers recognise the difficulties experienced by the home and say, 'The manager and staff have been committed to trying to make this placement work.' It is clear that the staff at the home are not equipped to manage the high level of challenge exhibited by this young person and this impacts negatively on other residents and the staff team.

Staff work hard to build positive and trusting relationships within the home. A young person said, 'The staff are great I get on really well with them. I have a job and they are paying for me to take my motorbike test. I sometimes join in with bad things that go on because it is hard not to.'

Consultation remains high on the homes agenda for young people. The house feels like a home and young people are central to the planning for their care both now and in the future. Young people say, 'We get asked about everything, every tiny detail. Sometimes I would rather they just decide, but it is good to be included.'

As a result of this inspection two requirements and two recommendations are made in order to address the shortfalls as identified.

## Information about this children's home

The home provides care and accommodation for up to three young people of either gender on a medium- to long-term basis. The home is run by a local authority that provides services to support young people with emotional and behavioural problems.

## Recent inspection history

| Inspection date | Inspection type | Inspection judgement  |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| 12/09/2014      | Full            | outstanding           |
| 17/02/2014      | Interim         | satisfactory progress |
| 10/07/2013      | Full            | outstanding           |
| 07/03/2013      | Interim         | good progress         |

## 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   |
|--------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| 18<br>(2001) | ensure young people make use of the educational facilities available to them and young people of compulsory school age, attend regularly (Regulation 18 (1) (a) (b)) | 10/04/2015 |
| 11<br>(2001) | ensure the home promotes and makes proper provision for the safeguarding and welfare of young people accommodated there (Regulation 11 (1) (a))                      | 10/04/2015 |

### Recommendations

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

- ensure the home only admits young people whose needs they can reasonably expect to meet (NMS 11.2)
- ensure young people develop and practice skills to build and maintain positive relationships, be assertive and resolve conflicts positively (NMS 3.5)

## **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.