

Children's homes – Interim inspection

Inspection date	20/03/2017
Unique reference number	SC059842
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home
Registered provider	Bolton Metropolitan Borough Council
Registered provider address	Town Hall, Victoria Square, PO Box 29, Bolton BL1 1RU

Responsible individual	Sarah Gatenby
Registered manager	Julie Whitehead
Inspector	Caroline Jones

Inspection date	20/03/2017
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 judges that it has improved effectiveness. The staff continue to provide young people with enriching experiences during their short break stay here. Young people who have disabilities participate in a wide range of activities that are new to them. These include going to the cinema, bowling, sensory play centres, animal farms and having meals in restaurants. Moreover, the staff successfully encourage young people to learn new skills such as cooking and personal care. Notably, a young person is part of the interview panel for the local authority. This is a fine example of a young person's growing confidence. Since the last inspection, young people have moved on from the home to adult services. Highly effective planning supports these transitions to ensure their success. Alongside this, goodbye celebrations and a book of memories demonstrate the value and meaning of the relationships built between the staff, young people and their families. Equally, the staff introduce new young people and their families to the home with the same commitment and value to making a positive difference to their lives. Young people are exceptionally well cared for during their stay by a highly skilled qualified and stable staff team. Young people are safe, protected and enjoy their time away from home. Their families are highly complimentary about the staff. A parent commented: 'The staff are brilliant, I can rest easy knowing that she is here.' Another parent commented: 'Just to say we don't know what we would do without all your help, you are fantastic.' Young people are valued, listened to and included in all aspects of the running of the home. A young person's representative regularly provides feedback to the manager about the things that are important to them. Two young people stated that they wanted their short break changing from the weekend to weekdays. This was swiftly agreed and changed. The staff work effectively with partner agencies and young people's families, gathering information to make sure that young people's needs are fully met during their stay. Moreover, their feedback is also sought to learn and improve further. Robust monitoring systems are in place and provide a thorough overview of care practice. Regular audits of written information by the manager and quality supervision of the staff serve to scrutinise care practice to ensure the competence	

of staff in providing the best standards of care to young people. There are no requirements or recommendations to follow up from the last inspection.

Information about this children's home

This is a local authority short-break children's home. It is registered to provide care and accommodation for up to four young people who have physical and/or learning disabilities.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
27/10/2016	Full	Outstanding
11/02/2016	Interim	Sustained effectiveness
28/09/2015	Full	Outstanding
30/03/2015	Interim	Improved effectiveness

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 that 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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