

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC061005
Inspector	Parveen Hussain
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Registered person	City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council
Registered person address	City Hall Centenary Square BRADFORD West Yorkshire BD1 1HY
Responsible individual	Julie Jenkins
Registered manager	Gillian Ann Martin
Date of last inspection	28/05/2014

Inspection date	21/01/2015
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Previous inspection	good
Enforcement action since last inspection	none

This inspection

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

The last full inspection in May 2014 identified the home as a good service. No requirements were made but three recommendations were raised. One has been addressed; this related to the need for learning and development plans being annually evaluated. The other two have only been partially met. These relate to the home being comfortable and well maintained and staff promoting the wellbeing of children, in particular around their smoking.

The overall ability of the home to improve the quality of care and outcomes for young people has declined since the last inspection.

Some admissions to the home are progressed without the Registered Manager's approval and without any suitable matching taking place. These have negatively impacted on the Registered Manager and team's ability to safeguard young people. The Registered Manager has made several attempts to challenge these decisions however these have not always been successful.

Young people report they are not happy living here. This is reflected through some young people spending most of their time at home in their bedroom. Others report they engage in risk taking behaviours and that they do not always feel safe.

An example of this is when a young person disclosed being assaulted by a co-resident but staff did not intervene to help. The young person later raised the issue again with another staff member who made a record of the discussion. However safeguarding procedures were not followed and there is no record of action taken to formally investigate the allegation. This compromises young people's safety and exposes them to further harm.

Some young people are abusive, challenging and threatening towards staff. This is

not always effectively addressed. Young people smoke in their bedrooms, bathrooms and onsite despite the rules of the home not permitting this. Staff are not adequately managing such situations.

Young people say there is a lack of fair and effective challenge of individuals. For example, some young people do not clean the kitchen following making a meal. This often results in the kitchen door being locked and access being prevented to all young people. On other occasions the bathrooms are left unclean. This means some young people have to tidy up prior to using them. This leaves some young people feeling unfairly treated as a result of the behaviour of others.

Some young people continue to engage in risk taking behaviours and say they regularly go missing from the home. Missing from home records indicate young people are often associating with older and unsafe people.

Staff appropriately adhere to the missing from care protocols and record factual details. However, there are shortfalls with implementing return home interviews. These are not consistently carried out although some are undertaken by the police.

The manager's monitoring of records is not sufficiently robust to identify patterns of poor practice. Records do not effectively reflect matters of concern. Risk assessments are not always detailed and accurate. Some records are not specific to named individuals and refer to other young people. This means young people are not provided with an accurate account of their care.

Supervision is not delivered in a timely way. The lack of formal support impacts on the staff teams ability to effectively undertake their duties and manage the challenging behaviours of young people. As a result, young people's safety and welfare is not prioritised and the support needs of staff are not met.

Despite these concerns being identified in the independent visitors monitoring report, they have not been addressed by the Registered Manager. This raises questions about the reliability and robustness of the homes systems for monitoring the quality of care and outcomes for young people.

The home does not offer a warm, homely and well maintained environment for young people. Following repair work to the walls a more recent coat of paint has been applied. It is clear this does not match the original shade. Some bedrooms require decorating and new carpets. One young person stated the carpet was ordered prior to their admission several months ago. One bedroom has a desk but no chair; the young person reports having to sit on the floor to do homework.

The home has reviewed its staffing levels. It has increased the numbers of carers to promote one-to-one care for some young people in accordance with their individual needs. The Registered Manager takes action to pursue additional support for young people and keenly ensures that discharge and transition planning takes place. She

visits potential placements to ensure young people are placed with carers that are able to meet their assessed needs.

Young people's views are sought and they are afforded choices relating to their hobbies and interests. This is reflected through their participation in activities and sports. One young person has commenced training in mixed martial arts, others enjoy playing rugby, going to the gym, attending youth clubs and going swimming. This enables young people to experience new opportunities and benefit from taking part in positive activities with their peers.

Young people continue to develop healthy lifestyles by eating a good diet and taking regular exercise. Some young people are making good progress at school and receive extra support to help them meet their potential. However, outcomes are mixed as some young people do not embrace the support available to them therefore do not achieve as well as expected.

Information about this children's home

This children's home is owned by a local authority and provides accommodation for up to eight young people with emotional and behavioural difficulties.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
28/05/2014	Full	good
14/01/2014	Interim	satisfactory progress
11/09/2013	Full	good
24/01/2013	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
11 (2001)	make proper provision for the welfare of children accommodated there (Regulation 11 (1)(a)) with particular attention being given to admissions, matching and the impact on others already accommodated at the home	13/02/2015
16 (2001)	ensure the prompt referral to the local authority in whose area the children's home is situated, of any allegations of abuse or neglect affecting any child accommodated in the children's home (Regulation 16 (2) (b))	13/02/2015
16 (2001)	ensure written records are kept of any allegation of abuse or neglect, and of the action taken in response (Regulation 16 (2)(d))	13/02/2015
16 (2001)	ensure consideration is given to the measures which may be necessary to protect children in the children's home following an allegation of abuse or	13/02/2015

	neglect (Regulation 16 (2)(e))	
17 (2001)	ensure the following shall not be used as disciplinary measures on children accommodated in a children's home; the punishment of a group of children for the behaviours of an individual child (Regulation 17 (3)(j)(ii))	13/02/2015
27 (2001)	ensure that all persons employed shall receive appropriate training, supervision and appraisal (Regulation 27 (4)(a))	13/02/2015
31 (2001)	ensure that all parts of the children's home used by children are kept clean, reasonably decorated and maintained (Regulation 31 (2)(e))	13/02/2015
34 (2001)	establish and maintain a system for improving the quality of care provided in the children's home (Regulation 34 (1)(b))	13/02/2015

Recommendations

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

- ensure written records are kept when a child goes missing detail action taken by staff, the circumstances of the return, reasons given by the child for running away and any actions taken in light of those reasons (Standard 5.10)

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.