

Children's homes - interim inspection

Inspection date	07 March 2016
Unique reference number	SC062248
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home
Registered person	Quality Protects Children Ltd
Inspector	Pacific Chambers 11-13 Victoria Street Liverpool L2 5QQ

Responsible individual	Anthony Nolan
Registered manager	Joanne Byron
Inspector	Maria McGranaghan

Inspection date	07 March 2016
Previous inspection judgement	Good
Enforcement action since last inspection	None
This inspection Sustained effectiveness.	
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 sustained effectiveness. Since the last inspection the Registered Manager has returned to her post after a period of maternity leave. Three young people remain in placement with one young person moving out to independent living. There has been one new admission to the home. Young people's progress and experience remains steady. All young people have suitable educational placements in both schools and colleges and during transitional periods are assisted within the home by an educational tutor. Attendance and attainment is consistently improved. All young people have a history of non-engagement in education however, in this placement educational outcomes have improved. Young people feel involved in the running of the home and understand how to raise issues or complaints if they are unhappy. Regular written consultation, complemented by specific key work sessions, enable young people to express their opinions about the home. However, where issues are raised and responded to within the consultation process there are no records to indicate if the young person is happy with the outcome or if further work is required. A recommendation is made to address this matter. Risk taking behaviours and risks of exploitation are particularly significant for the young people living in this home. Individual risk management plans are in place and are reviewed monthly or earlier if necessary. Concerns that have arisen are reported and strategies put into place to reduce further risk. It is clear that from their initial starting point, risk taking behaviours such as being missing from home are steadily reduced. There have been no young people missing overnight from the home. All staff are trained in the use of physical intervention. Since the home opened there have been two restraints which occurred since the last full inspection. Although the circumstances of the restraint are fully recorded, records are somewhat confusing. For example, a discrepancy in the duration of the restraint.	

Consequently, it is unclear how long the actual restraint lasted or if the discrepancy was addressed through internal and external monitoring. As a result one recommendation is made to address this matter.

Health care planning is good. Young people have access to a range of external health care resources and are visited in the home by the looked after children's nurse on a regular basis. Records of suitable health checks are maintained and follow up appointments consistently attended. Staff work with young people to help them understand about personal health care, relationships and personal safety. Young people engage well and review their sessions on a regular basis.

Young people living in the home are placed out of authority and live a considerable distance from their family home. However, all young people have clear contact plans and where appropriate have regular contact with family members and those important to them. Staff consistently support contact to ensure it is a positive experience for young people.

Since the last inspection, there have been two incidents of bullying in the home. Incidents are suitably recorded and keywork sessions and young people's meetings have taken place. However, systems to manage incidents between young people living within the independence suite and younger residents need to be further developed. A recommendation is made to address this matter.

At the last inspection two requirements and four recommendations were made to improve practice. The manager has made progress in addressing these matters. Notifications are now forwarded to Ofsted within suitable timescales. Record books are further developed to contain sufficient detail of concerns around safeguarding, room searches and physical intervention. Young people are now able to access a private telephone as recommended at the last inspection.

Some work to improve cultural awareness and diversity is being undertaken within the home. My book about me, enables young people to discover more about their individual heritage, while monthly cultural awareness evenings have been reintroduced. This is an area for on-going development.

Information about this children's home

This children's home is registered to provide care and accommodation for up to four young people with emotional and/or behavioural difficulties or learning disabilities.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
21/07/2015	Full	Good
09/02/2015	Interim	Sustained effectiveness

What does the children's home need to do to improve?

Recommendations:

ensure that where young people are consulted about their views on the home's care, they are able to see the results of their views being listened to and acted upon and comment on this action (The Guide to the Quality Standards paragraph 4.11 page 22)

ensure staff understand what they must do to prevent bullying of young people by other young people living in the home (The Guide to the Quality Standards paragraph 8.16 page 39)

ensure records of restraint are reviewed to identify effective practice, trends or concern, with specific regard to discrepancies in the records. (The Guide to the Quality Standards paragraph 9.59 page 49)

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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