

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC065059
Inspector	Dave Carrigan
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Registered person	Stoke on Trent City Council
Registered person address	City of Stoke-on-Trent, Civic Centre Glebe Street STOKE-ON-TRENT ST4 1HH
Responsible individual	Susan Hammersley
Registered manager	Helen Marie Malanaphy
Date of last inspection	06/11/2014

Inspection date	11/02/2015
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 **improved effectiveness**.

The Registered Manager continues to provide clear leadership and direction. Staff are competent and have a clear understanding in meeting the diverse needs of young people. The entire staff team are committed to improve the quality of care for young people.

When young people go missing from home return interviews are undertaken. This interview is conducted by an independent agency. The result of this interview is sent to a central location that the home can only access when it is uploaded onto a shared IT system. This creates delays and missed learning opportunities that can help to contribute to the safety and well-being of young people.

Young people are happy living at the home. They have good relationships with the staff that look after them. Young people feel cared for and supported. A young person said 'staff make it feel like a home'.

Staff work in partnership with education professionals to actively encourage young people to engage in their educational placements. Despite all efforts made by staff, some young people continue to struggle with sustaining good school attendance.

Consultation with young people has improved in the home. They are involved in their placement plans and planning for their future. Young people also complete a 'positive bubble' document which is a folder that young people can take with them when they leave the placement. This contains positive memories, significant episodes and feedback from others.

Young people are engaged in working towards their independence. This includes work on independent travel and plans for them to budget and prepare their own meals with support from staff. This allows young people to take more responsibility

and to give them a sense of achievement.

The home promotes and develops effective partnerships with other agencies including the police, education departments and social workers. A social worker commented 'it's a fantastic home, they are very good with communication and always let me know if there are any issues'. As a result of this collaborative approach, young people are better protected.

The home has demonstrated continued improvement. This includes implementing a new system of record keeping and more consultation with young people on their placement plans. As a result, young people's views are heard and their wishes and feelings are acted upon. In addition, staff can undertake their roles much easier due to a streamlined system.

The home has met three previous recommendations raised at the last inspection. One of the previous recommendations remains unmet. Some staff are still being left in charge of the home before they have successfully completed their induction and probation periods.

Information about this children's home

The home is part of the provision operated by the local authority. This home provides care for up to two young people who have emotional and behavioural difficulties.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
06/11/2014	Full	good
18/03/2014	Interim	good progress
05/12/2013	Full	good
24/01/2013	Interim	good progress

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

Recommendations

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

- ensure that the written records kept by the home when a child goes missing detail the circumstances of the child's return, any reasons given by the child for running away from the home. and any action taken in light of those reasons (NMS 5.10)
- ensure that staff members placed in charge of the home and other staff at particular times (e.g. as leaders of staff shifts) have successfully completed their induction and probationary periods. (NMS 17.5)

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.