

Children's homes - interim inspection

Inspection date	10/02/2016
Unique reference number	SC356864
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home
Registered person	Time-Out Childrens Homes Limited
Registered person address	7 St Petersgate, Stockport, Cheshire, SK1 1EB

Responsible individual	Janet Lumb
Registered manager	Sarah Watkinson
Inspector	Jo Hornby

Inspection date	10/02/2016
Previous inspection judgement	Good
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 Good at the full inspection. At this interim inspection Ofsted judge that it has sustained effectiveness. The young person living in the home continues to make good progress in many aspects of his development. Staff know him well and have a good understanding of his complex needs. They pre-empt situations which cause him anxiety and distress, such as education. They work together with education staff to provide the emotional support he needs. The communication between the two disciplines is effective. For example, discussions between the home and teaching staff in relation to strategies and approaches, means that the young person receives consistent care, affording him stability and security. This proactive approach has resulted in a significant increase in his educational attendance since the last inspection. Staff acted quickly and proactively when the young person made a derogatory comment about a member of teaching staff. They took the young person to learn about the history of slavery at the Liverpool Museum, where he participated in discussions and gained an understanding of words which are racist and discriminatory. This trip was successful and the young person has since voluntarily discussed this topic again, showing a good understanding of how this issue can impact on others. Clear consistent boundaries and routines are provided from a strong, stable staff team. The young person needs a steady routine and can struggle with changes to his daily life. Staff continue to assist him in understanding and accepting that on occasions daily activities may change; for attendance at medical appointments for example. Staff make certain that he is well prepared for any changes to his routine by ensuring he can see his weekly planner. Consequently the young person no longer goes into crisis when this occurs. Staff have worked hard in building up his self-confidence and self-esteem. They have supported him to participate and engage with other young people. He now attends a local football club, where he is reported to be very talented. Staff are very proud of his achievements and are dedicated in supporting him to develop	

this talent. Staff are also sourcing a dance class which is also a passion of the young person. He has identified to staff that his relationship with females has much improved. This increase in his confidence has notably improved since the last inspection.

The manager is looking to fill the vacant placement in the home. She is mindful that the matching process must be careful and meticulous due to the vulnerabilities of the young person who lives there. Staff are currently preparing the young person and seek his views on his preferences. He is quite receptive to the idea of sharing his home. Once a suitable match has been identified, work will be undertaken with the young person so that he is fully prepared.

Staff welcome the young person's family members to the home on a regular basis as well as enabling the young person to see his family outside of the home. This ensures that he feels supported by his staff in keeping family ties and is in line with his care plans. A parent commented: 'The home provides good family contact with excellent key working and monthly reports.'

The manager fully understands the young person and how his past experiences are highly likely to contribute to his complex behaviour. She effectively monitors the quality of care provided to the young person and ensures that his needs are consistently met. Due to the young person having great difficulty engaging in school, she has devised a handover book which gives both disciplines information on his daily demeanour and whether there are any issues of concern. This helps the manager and staff monitor any patterns of behaviour.

Staff pre-empt situations which could cause a change in behaviour, and develop plans with the young person to help manage these more effectively. This has resulted in him making better choices regarding safe and acceptable behaviour. As a result, there have been no significant incidents, notifications, or any restraints since the last inspection. The staff know the local police and are well-informed of issues in the community and who to contact if necessary. They work collaboratively with safeguarding professionals to keep the young person safe. Information is shared to support a multi-agency approach to help him manage his behaviour and vulnerabilities.

Care plans are highly individualised and comprehensively reflect the young person's needs and experiences. The manager maintains good oversight of the young person's plans and ensures they are achievable and consistently put into practice by staff. She is confident and is able to escalate issues to relevant agencies when documents are not sent to the home in a timely manner. A shortfall noted at this inspection which has not had a direct impact on the young person, is

the lack of minutes from the young person's most recent statutory review.

Information about this children's home

The home is a privately run children's home, which provides care and accommodation for up to two young people who may have emotional and/or behavioural difficulties.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
27/10/2015	CH - Full	Good
19/03/2015	CH - Interim	sustained effectiveness
17/12/2014	CH - Full	Good
13/02/2014	CH - Interim	Satisfactory Progress

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

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 (England) Regulations 2015 and the *Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards*. The registered person(s) must comply with the given timescales.

Requirement	Due date
The registered person must maintain records ("case records") for each child which include the information and documents listed in Schedule 3 in relation to each child are kept up to date. This with specific reference to ensuring minutes of statutory reviews are held on file without delay. (Regulation 36 (a)(b))	16/03/2016

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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