

## Children's homes – interim inspection

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|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Inspection date</b>             | <b>18/01/2017</b>                                   |
| <b>Unique reference number</b>     | <b>SC356864</b>                                     |
| <b>Type of inspection</b>          | <b>Interim</b>                                      |
| <b>Provision subtype</b>           | <b>Children's home</b>                              |
| <b>Registered provider</b>         | <b>Time-Out Children's Homes Limited</b>            |
| <b>Registered provider address</b> | <b>7 St Petersgate, Stockport, Cheshire SK1 1EB</b> |

|                               |                        |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Responsible individual</b> | <b>Janet Lumb</b>      |
| <b>Registered manager</b>     | <b>Sarah Watkinson</b> |
| <b>Inspector</b>              | <b>Jo Hornby</b>       |

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| <b>Inspection date</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <b>18/01/2017</b> |
| <b>Previous inspection judgement</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <b>Good</b>       |
| <b>Enforcement action since last inspection</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <b>None</b>       |
| <b>This inspection</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                   |
| <p><b>The effectiveness of the home and the progress and experiences of children and young people since the most recent full inspection</b></p> <p>This home was judged <b>good</b> at the full inspection. At this interim inspection Ofsted judges that it has <b>sustained effectiveness</b>.</p> <p>The young people living in this home continue to make good progress in most aspects of their development. Staff have a good knowledge and understanding of their individual needs. Staff anticipate situations which may cause anxiety and distress, such as by supporting young people to build up gradually to attending a new school. They work with education staff, sharing behaviour management plans to provide consistent approaches and responses. This strategy is proving to be effective and has provided young people with stability and security.</p> <p>One young person is relatively new to the home. Staff worked with their placing authority to ensure that the transition from his previous placement was well planned. The manager acquired important information from the young person's social worker and previous carers. This provided staff with a clear understanding of his past experiences. This information was used to create robust risk assessments and behaviour management plans that are regularly reviewed and amended as and when required.</p> <p>A careful and meticulous matching process has ensured that both young people are compatible. Team meetings provided a good forum for staff to discuss how best to support the existing young person with the imminent changes and to ensure that he was well prepared for the new admission. Staff encouraged and supported him to devise questions for the placing social worker about the new young person and he was given ample opportunities to discuss any worries and fears in key-work sessions. This proactive approach resulted in the young person being fully involved in welcoming the new admission to the home.</p> <p>Young people who have left the home have made positive transitions to semi-independent living, with the support of their families. Staff sourced creative tools to assist young people with independent living skills, such as cooking and budgeting, in preparation for adulthood. Staff teach young people how to keep safe and this has successfully diminished the times when young people go missing from the home. An example would be encouraging them to engage in their chosen activities such as going to the local gym.</p> |                   |

Staff value education and understand the obstacles to learning. They use positive praise to help young people reach their individual goals. This method is proving effective in helping young people to develop a positive view of their education attendance and achievement. Staff work collaboratively with education staff to ensure that young people receive the right level of education for their specific needs. This has resulted in some young people gaining qualifications such as AQA awards in childcare, which will assist them in gaining future jobs.

Staff welcome young people's family members to the home as well as enabling young people to see their families outside the home. This ensures that they feel supported by staff in keeping family ties and is in line with their individual care plans.

The manager continues to monitor regularly the progress and development of young people, which helps her to identify any developing patterns or trends on a regular basis. Staff follow individual behaviour management plans consistently and use de-escalation techniques when young people are feeling angry or frustrated to help them remain calm. This consistent approach means that the use of physical intervention has not been necessary.

The home's conservatory door is missing at present as the result of an accident. This is causing the room to be very cold. Young people like to use the room to play games, which they are currently unable to do. The laminate floors to the living room, office and upstairs landing are worn and need replacing. The manager has reported this shortfall to the organisation. These items need to be replaced as a matter of urgency due to the floors becoming unsafe.

## 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    |
|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| 24/05/2016      | Full            | Good                    |
| 10/02/2016      | Interim         | Sustained effectiveness |
| 27/10/2015      | Full            | Good                    |
| 19/03/2015      | Interim         | Sustained effectiveness |

## 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 must comply within the given timescales.

| Requirement                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Due date   |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| The quality and purpose of care standard–<br><br>children receive care from staff who ensure that the premises used for the purposes of the home are designed and furnished so as to meet the needs of children and enable each child to participate in the daily life of the home. (Regulation 6 (c)(i)(ii)) | 24/03/2017 |

## **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 whom 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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