

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC356963
Inspector	Stella Henderson
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Registered person	Kirklees Council
Registered person address	Kirklees Council 30 Market Street HUDDERSFIELD HD1 2HG
Responsible individual	Paul Johnson
Registered manager	Victor James Szczesnowicz
Date of last inspection	12/08/2014

Inspection date	24/02/2015
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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 **sustained effectiveness**.

Young people have enjoyed a relatively settled period since the last inspection. As with most adolescents they occasionally test the boundaries by coming back home later than their agreed time. Incidents of 'missing from home' are minimal however and no young people who live at the home are at risk of sexual exploitation.

The majority of young people are in late adolescence, with all the challenges that brings to group living. A pattern of bullying is beginning to emerge but swift and decisive action is being taken to stop this. Staff continue to work hard to support young people to resolve the difficulties they face and help them to build on their strengths. Incidents of disruption and challenging behaviour are infrequent; when they do occur staff manage these with care, patience and without resort to physical intervention.

All young people have school placements, alternative educational provision or are engaged in some form of work. Some are working hard to achieve national examinations and are exploring moving on to sixth form colleges. For others their engagement in education and attendance fluctuates. The manager and staff are actively working with education professionals to remedy this situation, but there is a slight loss of momentum while alternatives are explored. A recommendation is set to help progress this as any further delay may make it more difficult for young people to re-engage and fulfil their educational potential.

The manager has acted on a recommendation made at the last inspection to improve the quality of recording in young people's files. This has been achieved and records now more fully capture young people's progress, experience and achievements.

One of the main improvements since the last inspection is the monitoring of the

home's performance. The manager has met the two requirements set at the last inspection in respect of this. Consultation has improved, but the main difference is the more effective evaluation of young people's experiences and greater emphasis on reflective practice. This is improving the quality of care for young people and providing better support for their emotional health.

The manager and staff now take a much more considered approach on how to support young people and tackle obstacles that are limiting progress. This is augmented by the 'pillars of parenting' training that is now being implemented and the chance to discuss each young person, in detail, with a psychologist as part of that process. This is beginning to increase staff's understanding of young people's behaviours and provide better planned and more consistent support and intervention.

The manager and staff continue to make the home a comfortable and relaxed place for young people to live. A location assessment is work in progress, but still requires the contribution of information from other agencies. A recommendation is set to support the provider in hastening it's completion.

Information about this children's home

The children's home is owned and operated by a local authority. It is registered to provide care and accommodation for six young people who experience behavioural and emotional difficulties.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
12/08/2014	Full	good
18/02/2014	Interim	good progress
30/04/2013	Full	adequate
10/09/2012	Interim	satisfactory 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 children are supported and enabled to resume full time education. This is with specific reference to ensuring there is no delay in achieving this outcome (NMS 8.8)
- ensure the home's location and design promotes children's health, safety and well-being and avoids factors such as excessive isolation and areas that present significant risks to children. This is with specific reference to completion of the home's location assessment. (NMS 10.2)

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.