

Children's homes - interim inspection

Inspection date	10/03/2016
Unique reference number	SC366343
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home
Registered person	Maple Leaf Care Limited
Registered person address	16a Regent Road, Altrincham, Cheshire, WA14 1RP

Responsible individual	Morgiana Nazerali
Registered manager	Nicola Higham
	Susan Murfitt
Inspector	Helen Humphreys HMI

Inspection date	10/03/2016
Previous inspection judgement	Outstanding
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 Outstanding at the full inspection. At this interim inspection Ofsted judge that it has sustained effectiveness. Since the last inspection the progress made by young people has been variable. One young person has made exceptional progress in all areas of his life, including attendance at school, contact and taking part in activities within the community. Clear plans for the future are known and positive. However progress for another young person is static. The number of times they have been reported missing is increasing as are the risks this activity poses, this includes sexual exploitation. The manager and staff are working pro-actively with a range of agencies to reduce this activity, however at present this is having limited effect. The manager is carefully controlling admissions to the home so as not to increase the known risks. Three young people were admitted to the home since the last inspection, for very short periods of time, including one young person who stayed at the home for less than 24 hours. The staff worked effectively with the placing authority and all young people were returned home very quickly, thus avoiding the need for a prolonged period of time in care. This is good practice. Two bedrooms have been refurbished and decorated to a very high standard and look welcoming and inviting for any young people who come to live at the home. Various other repairs and general maintenance are evident and the young people have access to a new computer. The Statement of Purpose and Children's Guide has been updated, but not submitted to Ofsted for scrutiny. The manager undertakes an internal monitoring every month, but this is based on a 'check list' activity which is repeated each month. This does not allow the manager to concentrate on specific areas of practice or identify areas where practice can be improved. The reports do not contain any analysis of practice. Some parts of the external visitor's reports are a repeat of the internal monitoring form. The visitor does speak to the young people if he visits at time when they are in the home, but he does not contact any parents or relatives. Although the reports	

include an evaluation of the wellbeing of young people and whether they are adequately safeguarded the information is similar to that in the internal monitoring form. The purpose of the external visitor's visit and report is to provide an independent view.

Young people reported that they enjoy living at the home and have a good relationship with the staff, who they regard as people who can help them and keep them safe. One young person could identify a range of positive experiences which had helped him to make progress and 'turn his life around'.

Since the last inspection, there has been no significant incidents, complaints or use of restraint. Ofsted has been notified promptly of all notifiable incidents and these have been handled appropriately.

The home is fully staffed and, with the exception of a newer member of staff, all are suitably qualified with an appropriate qualification. Two members of staff are undertaking Diploma Level 5 for Residential Child Care.

No requirements or recommendations were made at the last inspection.

Information about this children's home

This section should outline:

- The home is registered to provide care and accommodation for up to 4 young people, who may have emotional and/or behavioural difficulties.
- The home is privately owned and managed.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
22/09/2015	CH - Full	Outstanding
10/01/2015	CH - Interim	sustained effectiveness
26/09/2014	CH - Full	Outstanding
05/03/2014	CH - Interim	Good Progress

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

Requirement	Due date
The Registered Person must notify HMCI of any revisions and send HMCI a copy of the revised statement (Regulation 16 (3) (b))	31 Mar 2016
The Registered Person must ensure that the independent person interviews if they consent the parents and relatives of the children placed (Regulation 44 (2) (a))	30 Apr 2016
The Registered Person must ensure that the independent visitor produces a report about the visit which sets out in particular the independent person's opinion as to whether, children are effectively safeguarded and the conduct of the home promotes children's wellbeing (Regulation 44 (4) (a) (b)).	30 Apr 2016

Recommendations

- The Registered Person should decide what each review should focus on, based on the specific circumstances of the home at that particular time and any areas of high risk to the children. (Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations including the quality standards, page 65, paragraph 15.4)

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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