

SC369825

Stoke-on-Trent City Council

Monitoring visit

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home is run by the local authority and offers care and accommodation for two young people who have experienced childhood instability leading to trauma and associated complex behaviours.

Inspection date: 3 November 2020

This monitoring visit

On 16 September 2020, Ofsted completed an assurance visit and found serious shortfalls in how staff protected young people and how their care was planned. The shortfalls left young people at risk of harm and impacted on their experiences and outcomes. The assurance visit resulted in two compliance notices being issued.

At this monitoring visit, it was found that the registered manager has made progress regarding the two compliance notices and five requirements have been met.

Two young people continue to live in the home. At the time of the assurance visit, one of the young people was staying at the local authority's training flat. After the assurance visit, the registered manager raised concern about a new risk in the community. This enabled the team around the young person to plan an earlier return to the home. This kept him safe from potential harm. A senior leader in the local authority commented that the professionals have learned from the shortfalls that resulted in compliance notices being served. As a service, they have improved their communication and joint working. This is improving experiences for young people.

The quality of young people's risk assessments has improved. The registered manager has included clear guidance for staff; particularly in respect to managing young people who are missing from home. When staff have become aware of a new risk, such as a breach of internet safety, they have acted promptly to manage the situation. This has included staff updating the risk assessment and the registered manager putting additional measures in place. This ensures that staff supervise young people when they are playing on their gaming consoles and monitor their

appropriate online activity. Staff demonstrate that they are aware of the risks for both young people living in the home and their responsibilities to keep young people safe.

Staff engage young people in discussions about things that are important to their welfare and well-being. They talk about friends and relationships, risks of exploitation via internet sites, dangers from cannabis use and how to stay physically and mentally well. Staff have improved their recording of these conversations to demonstrate their role in helping young people to learn how to stay safe.

One young person attends school and continues to make good progress. The registered manager is actively pursuing training opportunities for the young person who is currently not receiving education. The registered manager demonstrates good networking to identify the correct provision to meet this young person's needs.

Young people have not been involved in any serious incidents, including significant missing-from-home episodes, since the assurance visit. The police and a senior leader within the local authority confirmed that there has been no escalation of risk levels. One young person's risk of gang membership has reduced.

The registered manager supports and motivates his team through their supervision sessions. Following the assurance visit, he spoke to staff about the actions required to resolve the identified shortfalls. This has improved staff's engagement with young people and how they evidence the work they are doing. Staff have also completed modern slavery training, which has highlighted the risk of exploitation for young people through county lines. Staff have the skills to identify and act to safeguard young people living in the home who are at risk.

Staff are committed to the young people. There are positive interactions between staff and both young people. One young person maintains contact with staff by telephone when he is out. Staff use the calls to support and encourage him. This helps him to return home safely and on time.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
26/06/2019	Full	Requires improvement to be good
03/07/2018	Full	Good
27/02/2018	Interim	Sustained effectiveness
23/05/2017	Full	Good

Information about this inspection

The purpose of this visit was to monitor the action taken and the progress made by the children's home since its last Ofsted inspection.

This inspection was carried out under the Care Standards Act 2000.

Children's home details

Unique reference number: SC369825

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Stoke-on-Trent City Council

Registered provider address: City of Stoke-on-Trent, Swann House, Boothn Road, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire ST4 4SY

Responsible individual: Tracey Docksey

Registered manager: Darren Edwards

Inspector

Joanna Warburton, Social Care Inspector

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Manchester
M1 2WD

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E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
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