

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC381085
Inspector	Dave Carrigan
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Registered person	Stoke on Trent City Council
Registered person address	City of Stoke-on-Trent, Civic Centre Glebe Street STOKE-ON-TRENT ST4 1HH
Responsible individual	Susan Hammersley
Registered manager	Linda Jane Dent
Date of last inspection	15/05/2014

Inspection date	11/03/2015
Previous inspection	adequate
Enforcement action since last inspection	none

This inspection

This home was judged adequate at the last full inspection. At this interim inspection Ofsted judge that it has **improved effectiveness**.

Since the last inspection there has been one change to the young people living in the home. One young person has moved to independent living and there has been one new admission.

Young people continue to live in the main in a comfortable and pleasant home. This helps them to feel secure and promotes their sense of well-being. There are some maintenance issues relating to one of the bedrooms. The issues undermine the otherwise good quality of the physical environment.

Attendance at school and work based placements for young people are good. Staff work in partnership with education departments and other relevant professionals to ensure that young people have every opportunity to reach their full potential.

There is a low level of behaviour management in the home. Records show that there has not been an episode of physical intervention in over twelve months. This is a consequence of positive interventions at an early stage that avoids behaviour escalating.

Consultation with young people is not always well recorded. The young persons 'bubble' document does not fully reflect the extent of work undertaken by staff to promote the young person's development. This means that, when young people review their records, now or in the future, the progress they have made is not immediately apparent.

There was previously an increase in the number of reported missing from care incidents. The home have reviewed this and put measures in place. As a result, the numbers of missing from care incidents has reduced significantly. The home ensures that it maintains close and effective working with other relevant agencies and

regularly reviews risk assessments to manage and alleviate the risks associated with missing from care.

The home promotes and develops effective partnerships with other agencies including the police, youth offending service and placing authorities. An education provider has commented 'the home is very good at partnership working, they regularly ring up asking for feedback'. There is evidence that young people are better protected as a result of this collaborative approach.

The home has a stable staff team with one member of staff recruited since the last inspection. Vetting and checks of new staff are robust and appropriate. A range of training opportunities are available to staff, the management team use an electronic training matrix to assist in the monitoring of this.

At the last full inspection three requirements and two recommendations were made. These have all been addressed, as a result, children are better protected; the home's administration systems have been updated and timely reviews of care are now taking place. The recommendations have been implemented, as a result, young people are being prepared for independence and records' regarding young people's contacts have been updated.

Information about this children's home

This children's home is registered to provide care and accommodation for two young people of either gender with emotional and/or behavioural difficulties. The home is operated by the local authority.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
15/05/2014	Full	adequate
18/02/2014	Interim	inadequate progress
12/12/2013	Full	good
27/03/2013	Interim	good 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 the home provides a comfortable and homely environment and is well maintained and decorated (NMS 10.3)
- ensure that staff support and encourage the child to reflect on and understand their history, according to their age and understanding, and to keep appropriate memorabilia of their time in the placement. (NMS 22.6)

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.