

SC381089

Registered provider: Stoke-on-Trent City Council

Interim inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home provides care and accommodation for up to two young people who have emotional and/or behavioural difficulties. A local authority operates the home. The home only supports children from the local authority's area.

Inspection date: 8 March 2018

Judgement at last inspection: good

Date of last inspection: 30 May 2017

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 good at the last full inspection.
At the interim inspection, Ofsted judges that it has sustained effectiveness.

Since the last inspection, there has been one change in the young people living in the home. This has resulted in one young person leaving the home to move to another residential placement within the authority.

Young people make good progress. They benefit from high levels of support and guidance given to them by staff. A social worker said to the inspector, 'This is a good placement; it meets all of [young person's] needs and takes her views into account.'

The manager ensures that young people's school attendance and engagement with

education continue to be good. As a result, young people are making good educational progress.

Young people are registered with primary healthcare services and are supported to attend any appointments. Specialist support is readily available to meet the emotional needs of young people through tailored therapeutic sessions. Appropriate arrangements are in place for the safe management of medicines to help to promote the safety and well-being of young people.

Young people are safe in this home. However, one incident was not particularly well managed. Staff did not use the appropriate de-escalation techniques or other alternative strategies to respond to young people's challenging behaviour. This resulted in the use of physical restraint. Since the incident, the manager has taken time to reflect on the incident to improve staff practice. This has included staff receiving additional training.

Staff know what action to take to promote young people's safety if a young person goes missing from the home. No young person has gone missing from the home since the last inspection.

Staff promote family contact. This means that young people are able to maintain their relationships with people who are important to them.

Young people are protected by effective health and safety procedures that include staff undertaking regular fire drills. Recruitment and selection processes are thorough. These measures positively promote the safety of the young people by preventing unsuitable adults from working with them.

The home continues to be managed by a suitably qualified manager who has been in post since June 2016. Staff are suitably trained and qualified, and the manager has development plans in place for staff to ensure that they develop, as well as improving the quality of care provided to meet young people's needs.

Partnership working with social workers, health professionals, the police and other professionals is effective. This results in good coordinated support to meet young people's needs.

The manager has responded positively to the two requirements and one recommendation raised at the last inspection. The lounge area of the home has recently been refurbished, and staff are now more familiar with the home's whistle-blowing policy and risk assessments.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
30/05/2017	Full	Good
09/02/2017	Interim	Sustained effectiveness
03/08/2016	Full	Requires improvement
03/02/2016	Full	Requires improvement

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

Statutory requirements

This section sets out the actions that the registered person(s) must take to meet 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(s) must comply within the given timescales.

Requirement	Due date
The positive relationships standard is that children are helped to develop, and to benefit from, relationships based on mutual respect and trust, an understanding about acceptable behaviour and positive responses to other children and adults. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure that staff help each child to develop and practise skills to resolve conflicts positively and without harm to anyone; de-escalate confrontations with or between children, or potentially violent behaviour by children. (Regulation 11(1)(a)(b)(c)(2)(a)(iv)(xi))	09/04/2018

Information about this inspection

Inspectors have looked closely at the experiences and progress of children and young people. Inspectors considered the quality of work and the differences made to the lives of children and young people. They watched how professional staff work with children and young people and each other and discussed the effectiveness of help and care provided. Wherever possible, they talked to children and 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.

Using the 'Social care common inspection framework', this inspection was carried out under the Care Standards Act 2000 to assess the effectiveness of the service, how it meets the core functions of the service as set out in legislation, 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'.

Children's home details

Unique reference number: SC381089

Provision sub-type: children's home

Registered provider: Stoke-on-Trent City Council

Registered provider address: City of Stoke-on-Trent, Civic Centre, Glebe Street,
Stoke-on-Trent ST4 1HH

Responsible individual: Susan Hammersley

Registered manager: Christopher Whalley

Inspector

Dave Carrigan, social care inspector

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