

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC381089
Inspector	Matthew Hedges
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	22/10/2014

Inspection date	23/03/2015
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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 **declined in effectiveness**.

Five requirements and one recommendation were made at the last inspection. The Registered Manager has failed to address three of the requirements.

The home has implemented a new fire record. On one occasion, some young people failed to respond to the fire alarm sounding. The log does not show that staff took any steps to remedy this. As a result, it is unclear whether young people understand the procedure to follow in the event of a fire. This places them at potential risk.

Secondly, reports from the home's independent visitor continue to lack detail and reliability in key areas. The report does not show an accurate record of conversations with young people and complaints are noted that have not been made. In addition, records of significant events, including missing from home, are insufficient. Because of this, the reports do not offer an opinion as to whether children accommodated at the home are effectively safeguarded, or whether the conduct of the home promotes their wellbeing. Consequently, monitoring by the Registered Manager is also hindered.

Finally, the Registered Manager's quarterly monitoring reports are poor. The reports do not cover all of the required areas and key information is lost. For example, missing from home incidents are not recorded, so there is also no managerial evaluation and the opportunity to identify learning is lost. Consequently, the system does not improve the quality of care provided in the children's home and fails to evidence effective monitoring.

Since the last inspection, young people have made progress in some areas of their lives. Education attendance has increased, as has increased attainment. An education provider commented positively about this. They confirmed they had seen improvements in both academic achievement and behaviour. They went on to say

that a young person had, 'set themselves as a role model for other students and keeps out of trouble'. Another highlighted that a young person's attendance, 'has massively improved'. This increases young people's skills and their self-confidence. One young person was particularly pleased about their growing independence skills.

The number of significant incidents is low. Some young people have been missing since the last inspection. The frequency of this has recently reduced. There have been no incidents of physical intervention and no complaints. Young people have good relationships with staff and thank them for the support they provide.

The Registered Manager continues to work closely with other agencies. This includes education, social care, and the police. An education provider confirmed this stating, 'the home is very supportive.' This ensures that young people receive consistent care.

Information about this children's home

This local authority home is registered to provide care and accommodation for two children who have emotional and behavioural difficulties.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
22/10/2014	Full	good
18/02/2014	Interim	good progress
08/05/2013	Full	good
20/12/2012	Interim	good progress

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

Statutory Requirements

This section sets out the actions which must be taken so that the registered person/s meets the Care Standards Act 2000, Children's Homes Regulations 2001 and the National Minimum Standards. The registered person(s) must comply with the given timescales.

Reg.	Requirement	Due date
29 (2001)	maintain in the children's home the records specified in Schedule 4 and ensure that they are kept up to date, specifically in relation to fire drills (Regulation 29 (1))	24/04/2015
33 (2001)	ensure that the independent person, shall interview the children accommodated, parents, relatives and staff to form an opinion as to whether children accommodated are effectively safeguarded; and the home promotes the wellbeing of the children accommodated there (Regulation 33 (8) (a))	24/04/2015
34 (2001)	establish and maintain a system for monitoring the matters set out in Schedule 6 at least once in every 3 months and improving the quality of care provided in the children's home. (Regulation 34 (1))	24/04/2015

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.