

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC412687
Inspector	Jo Hornby
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Registered person	Social Care Services (Clayton) Limited
Registered person address	31 Shaw Road STOCKPORT Cheshire SK4 4AG

Responsible individual	Stephen Marx Davitt
Registered manager	Katherine Yarker
Date of last inspection	24/09/2014

Inspection date	12/03/2015
Previous inspection	good
Enforcement action since last inspection	There has been no enforcement since the last inspection.

This inspection

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

Young people's complex needs are managed effectively by the staff. Young people have been supported to engage in activities such as horse riding and acting classes. This has developed their confidence and given them a sense of achievement. One social worker commented, 'I have nothing but praise for the lengths and efforts staff went to in trying to manage and address young people's needs.'

Staff focus on supporting young people to engage in education. Most young people have excellent school attendance and are making good progress. For example staff use rewards effectively to encourage young people to attend school. Consequently young people are working hard to reach their full educational potential.

Staff encourage and support young people to develop their skills in preparing for independence. Young people participate in cooking, doing laundry and if appropriate engage in managing their own bank accounts. Young people are enabled to develop a variety of skills to support independent living.

From their respective starting points most young people are making good progress in all aspects of their development. Their achievements are captured and entered into their own individual albums. Young people are inspired by staff to want to succeed in life and are proud of the progress they are making. For example one young person wrote a letter to the Queen and was delighted to receive a reply from the Queen's Lady in Waiting.

Staff work effectively with young people when the young people are worried. For example work has been undertaken in relation to communal living, on an individual basis and within young people's meetings. Young people are now more able to recognise, reflect and modify their behaviour. This has successfully reduced the

number of incidents of bullying. One member of staff said, 'the young people's meeting seem to have been successful, as they seem to be getting along much better.'

The Registered Manager and staff work closely with significant agencies to ensure that young people thrive in their care. One Police Officer commented, 'We communicate all the time, staff encourage the residents and the Police relationship and help to break down the barriers and the Registered Manager sends us weekly updates and information of new residents and discharges.' As a result criminal activity is reduced and young people are able to have better relationships with external agencies.

Three out of the four recommendations raised at the last inspection have been addressed. Staff complete impact assessments for all new admissions to the home; this ensures that young people's progress is not compromised. The Registered Manager records and dates each staff supervision session, which staff review and sign. Each young person is made aware of how electronic devices are used to monitor and promote their welfare. Consequently young people are involved in keeping themselves safe and recognise how staff protect them from potential harm.

The organisation has confirmed that the Registered Manager is due to commence the level 5 qualification in leadership and management. This will further enhance the manager's knowledge in supervising and guiding the staff team as well as assisting the staff to further develop outcomes for young people.

Staff support and promote contact between young people and significant others in line with their individual care and placement plans. This ensures that young people continue to have consistent care from their families. For example staff facilitate contact at the home wherever appropriate. One young person said, 'my dad's coming here today to see me, staff are sorting it out for me.'

A recommendation has been raised to ensure that the young people's snooker table is repaired. This has not had an impact on the safety and welfare of the young people in the home; however repairs are needed to ensure that young people's safety is not compromised.

Information about this children's home

This home is privately owned and registered to provide care and accommodation for up to three young people who have emotional and/or behavioural difficulties.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
24/09/2014	Full	good
12/02/2014	Interim	good progress
17/07/2013	Full	good
20/02/2013	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):

- The home provides a comfortable and homely environment and is well maintained and decorated. Avoidable hazards are removed as is consistent with a domestic setting. Risk reduction does not lead to an institutional feel (NMS 10.3)

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.