

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC033587
Inspector	Stella Henderson
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Registered person	Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
Registered person address	Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council, Riverside House Main Street ROTHERHAM South Yorkshire S60 1AE
Responsible individual	Clair Pyper
Registered manager	Shaun Anthony Scales
Date of last inspection	04/07/2014

Inspection date	22/09/2014
------------------------	------------

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**.

The home has declined in effectiveness because young people are not adequately protected when they are known to be missing from the home. Staff do not follow the agreed procedures laid out in the organisations' 'missing from home' policy. For example, missing from home plans are not completed as required in partnership with the local police. In the absence of clear planning there is no structured, clear and agreed response to these incidents. This limits the ability of staff to take prompt and decisive action to protect young people and reduce the number of times they go missing from the home.

This also means that other professionals cannot be held to account if they take a different view of the response to be taken to such incidents. Managers are not robust enough in their challenge to other professionals on these occasions. This exposes young people to increased risk and undermines otherwise effective partnership working.

Risks associated with young people missing from the home are not fully evaluated. There is no grading of concerns against any criteria; simply the opinion of staff on what the dangers may be. As a result the degree of risk, and any protective factors, are not fully and accurately assessed. This impacts on the ability of staff to implement effective measures to keep young people safe and reduce such incidents.

Monitoring of the home's performance does not adequately address these matters. The independent visitor's report does not fully evaluate the findings of their assessment. This is a recommendation from the last inspection that has not been fully addressed.

The reports do not make clear the visitor's opinion on whether children are safeguarded or whether the home promotes the well-being of children

accommodated there. This may give a misleading picture of how effective the home is in protecting children.

There is some evaluation within the manager's monitoring report with areas for improvement identified. This document demonstrates that there is good management oversight of restraints, complaints and notifications, all of which are managed effectively. However there is little evidence of consultation with young people, social workers and their parents. This means that their contribution to how the quality of care may be improved is overlooked.

Despite the overall decline in effectiveness, the home has promoted positive outcomes for the majority of young people. For example, one young person has achieved their predicted grades in summer examinations, another has embarked on an apprenticeship. Young people maintain good health and keep themselves involved in activities both in and outside of the home. Young people have been offered the opportunity to chair their own house meetings and a standing agenda item on safeguarding is being introduced.

Other improvements include the refurbishment of the kitchen and other areas of the home. This is was a recommendation from the last inspection that has been met. Young people have been provided with pathway plans and their key working sessions are more accurately recorded. These were identified as shortfalls at the last inspection and have been fully addressed.

Information about this children's home

The children's home is run by a local authority. It is registered to accommodate up to six young people. The home provides long-term residential care to young people with emotional and behavioural difficulties.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
04/07/2014	Full	good
24/01/2014	Interim	inadequate progress
28/08/2013	Full	adequate
01/07/2013	Full	inadequate

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
11 (2001)	promote and make proper provision for the safeguarding and welfare of children accommodated there. This is with specific reference to strengthening and implementing all aspects of the missing from home policy (Regulation 11)(1)(a)	22/10/2014
33 (2001)	ensure that the independent visitor forms an opinion as to whether children accommodated at the children's home are effectively safeguarded and the conduct of the children's home promotes the wellbeing of the children accommodated there (Regulation 33)(8)(a)	22/10/2014
34 (2001)	maintain a system for monitoring the matters set in Schedule 6 at least once in every 3 months and improving the quality of care provided in the children's home. The system referred to in	22/10/2014

	paragraph (1) shall provide for consultation with children accommodated in the home, their parents and placing authorities (Regulation 34)(1)(a)(b)(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.