

Inspection report for children's home

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<b>Unique reference number</b>	SC040500
<b>Inspector</b>	Paul Scott
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Interim
<b>Provision subtype</b>	Secure Unit

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<b>Registered person</b>	Salford City Council
<b>Registered person address</b>	Civic Centre, Chorley Road, Swinton MANCHESTER M27 5DA
<b>Responsible individual</b>	Michael Kelly
<b>Registered manager</b>	Michael Gerard Lowry
<b>Date of last inspection</b>	30/04/2014

<b>Inspection date</b>	26/11/2014
Previous inspection	outstanding
Enforcement action since last inspection	There has been no enforcement action since the last inspection.

## This inspection

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

The manager has made every effort to address the recommendations from the previous inspection. The home's Statement of Purpose and the parents, carers and young people's guide has been updated and now accurately reflect the accommodation arrangements of the home. Regulation 34 monitoring reports are now routinely sent to Ofsted within designated timescales and improved processes are in place to ensure medical consent is acquired for all young people. Every effort has been made to address a fourth recommendation relating to meeting the timescales for young people seeing the nurse within two hours of admission. Delays in the NHS England contracting process mean that it has not been possible to arrange 24-hour nursing cover. The impact of this has been minimal because of the centres creative approach to ensuring young people are seen quickly. As a result, a significant majority of young people are now seen within the two hour window.

Young people talk positively about their experiences in the home and how these have helped them. Their understanding of why they are living at the home fits well with that of staff so they are working together towards the same goals. For example, young people positively engage in education and talk with aspiration about how the skills and qualifications they acquire at the centre will improve their future prospects. One young person said, 'I think my biggest achievement is going to school. I never went to school before. Now I go every day and will be sitting five GCSE's next year. This will really help me when I leave.'

The centre has undergone a significant amount of rebuilding and development which was completed earlier in the year. This has been managed effectively, in particular how staff have worked in such a way that has preserved the integrity of the secure environment and not exposed any young people to unnecessary risk. The benefit to young people has been the improved living accommodation as well as a number of

recreational and vocational areas including a drama suite and a motor vehicle workshop. Young people have been fully involved in all aspects of the development including choosing furniture for the living accommodation. The culmination of their efforts was recently celebrated by way of a 'party at the pond'. Young people spoke very excitably about this event which included live entertainment and a number of young people showing off their musical talents in playing musical instruments and singing. The event was attended by approximately 200 people which included young people's families, staff and their families and a number of professionals. One young person said, 'It was a brilliant night. We got to see our families and have a really good time and raised over £700.00 for charity.'

Young people benefit immensely from spending time at this home. Their safety, well-being and care is at the forefront of all care practice which is underpinned by a very child-focused approach to addressing criminal behaviour. Individualised intervention programmes are used to help young people understand and address their offending behaviour in preparation for their release. Resettlement is considered from the point of admission and staff work diligently with young people, parents and relevant professionals. This promotes a planned approach to transition and resettlement. Staff are strong advocates for young people and will ensure young people receive the support of independent advocacy services when there are shortfalls in the resettlement process. This enhances the prospects of young people having the right resources and support in place when they leave, reducing the likelihood of re-offending.

Young people's views are integral to the running of this home. There are a number of processes in place for young people to have their say and raise concerns. This includes one-to one discussions with staff, keywork sessions and young people's meetings, which are now chaired by an independent advocate. When complaints have been raised they have been transparently investigated and the outcome shared with the complainant.

There is an increased emphasis on positive behaviour management, in particular the reduction of physical intervention. All staff have completed behaviour management training which focuses on de-escalation and diffusion. Staff have utilised this knowledge, along with their positive relationships with young people, to good effect. Numbers of restraint incidents across all four units are now exceedingly low given the challenging nature of some young people. This is also the case with single separation which has reduced dramatically over recent months.

The safety and security of young people is given the highest priority. Care practice is underpinned by robust child protection procedures and rigorous monitoring by managers. Concerns are managed in the best interest of young people including the referral to, and involvement of relevant external agencies. A number of concerns have arisen since the last inspection, all of which have been dealt with effectively. Relevant parties have been informed and involved including notification to Ofsted. However, these notifications have not been within 24-hours of the incident, which is

contrary to current guidance. The impact of this shortfall is minimal and has had no direct impact on the welfare and care of young people.

12 new staff have been recruited since the last inspection. Many of these have transferred from children's homes in the local authority and from other secure children's homes. The skills, experience and knowledge that these staff bring has further enhanced an already established and competent staff team.

## Information about this children's home

The children's home can accommodate up to 24 young people, who are aged between 10 and 17 years. These are young people who have received a custodial sentence and are placed at this home by the Youth Justice Board. Education is provided on site.

## Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
30/04/2014	Full	outstanding
26/11/2013	Interim	good progress
16/05/2013	Full	outstanding
29/01/2013	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 Ofsted are notified within 24 hours of any occurrence of significant events in accordance with regulation 30. (NMS 24.1)

## **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.