

Inspection report for children's home

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<b>Unique reference number</b>	SC428599
<b>Inspector</b>	Janine Shortman-Thomas
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Interim
<b>Provision subtype</b>	Children's home

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<b>Registered person</b>	Courtyard Care Limited
<b>Registered person address</b>	Caroline House 146 Audenshaw Road Audenshaw Manchester M34 5HQ
<b>Responsible individual</b>	Colin Richard Gallimore
<b>Registered manager</b>	POST VACANT
<b>Date of last inspection</b>	29/05/2014

<b>Inspection date</b>	07/01/2015
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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 **sustained effectiveness**.

At the full inspection in May 2014 the overall effectiveness of the home was judged to be good.

Since the full inspection the Registered Manager has left the organisation. The provider has appointed a new suitably qualified and experienced manager. The manager has submitted her application and is awaiting checks from the Disclosure and Barring Service to proceed with her application. The new manager is providing leadership to the staff team and is implementing changes to ensure the home is run efficiently and effectively. The manager has addressed the one requirement which relates to notifying the host Local Authority when a young person moves into or out of the home, and has addressed one recommendation in relation to the supervision of staff made at the full inspection. The home has yet to ensure that the reports from the home's monthly independent visits carried out under Regulation 33 are sent to Ofsted. As such a requirement has been issued within this inspection.

Young people continue to enjoy a good quality of care from a caring staff team who feel supported by the new manager to carry out their role. Young people who are new to the home receive a warm welcome from the staff team and young people. Staff place the young people's safety and welfare at the centre of their practice. Young people report 'I like living here, the staff help me and are kind.' Parents report that staff greet them in a friendly and hospitable manner, and support them and their child to ensure contact is safe and enjoyable for all involved.

There are adequate staffing levels in the home to ensure activities which young people request and individual appointments with specialist mental health services can be facilitated as required. Staff are positive about working at the home and said they feel very well supported by the management team. Staff receive regular supervision and most have training relevant to the needs of the young people. A

shortfall has been identified in regards to one member of staff who has yet to complete the required National Vocational Qualification Level 3 despite commencing employment in May 2012. The staff team report they feel valued and involved in decisions and improvements that have recently been made in the home. These improvements include developing and improving relationships with partner agencies and stakeholders, improving consultation with young people, parents and professional bodies about the quality of care the home provides, implementing and improving systems within the home to ensure the three monthly reports under are completed consistently, and ensuring all relevant staff are nominated for relevant training so they can secure the required qualifications needed for their role.

Good recruitment practices are followed. The provider understands the importance of following up gaps in employment as appropriate and verifying references. This promotes a robust approach to the recruitment of staff and keeps young people safe from adults who may pose a risk to them.

Shortfalls identified at this inspection relate to Regulation 33 and Regulation 34 reports and staff qualifications. However, these do not impact on the safety and welfare of young people or the continued effectiveness of service delivery.

## Information about this children's home

The home is run by a privately owned company and is registered for up to five children or young people who have a learning disability or mental health disorder.

## Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
29/05/2014	Full	good
21/10/2013	Interim	good progress
23/05/2013	Full	good
12/02/2013	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
33 (2001)	ensure that the independent persons' written report which is undertaken following their regulation 33 visit is provided to Ofsted. Regulation 33 (1)(9)(a)	04/02/2015
34 (2001)	ensure a system is in place for monitoring the matters set out in schedule 6 at least once in every 3 months which ensuring a copy of the report is sent to Ofsted. Regulation 34 (1)(a)(2)	04/02/2015

## Recommendations

To improve the quality and standards of care further the service should take account of the following recommendation(s):

- ensure that all existing and newly appointed care staff have attained a minimum level 3 qualification or be working towards the Diploma within 6

months of confirmation of employment. (NMS 18.5)

## **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.