

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC033457
Inspector	Shaun Common
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Secure Unit

Registered person	Leeds City Council
Registered person address	Leeds City Council, Department of Education 110 Merrion Centre LEEDS LS2 8DT
Responsible individual	Stephen Banks Walker
Registered manager	Francis N'Jie
Date of last inspection	31/07/2014

Inspection date	16/01/2015
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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 last inspection of the home in July 2014, three statutory requirements and six recommendations were made. Four of the recommendations related to the education provided and will be assessed at the next full inspection of the home. Two of the three statutory requirements and both the remaining recommendations have been fully addressed.

The registered person was asked to ensure that significant events that occur at the home as set out in regulation 30 are notified to the relevant authorities. The home has ensured that all events are notified appropriately. There was a delay in relation to one matter being notified to Ofsted since the last inspection. The Registered Manager has taken appropriate action to ensure that the issue that caused the delay has been fully addressed.

The registered person was asked to ensure that when internal monitoring takes place the views of young people, their parents and placing authorities are considered. This has been actioned. The Registered Manager consults young people on their views about the running of the home and has devised a system for attaining the views of placing authorities and parents. This ensures that monitoring processes that help to improve the quality of care provided at the home take account of the views of a range of relevant people and importantly those receiving a service.

The registered person was also asked to ensure that single separation and search records are robust and detailed to show all required information. This has been actioned and helps to demonstrate that young people's rights and wellbeing are promoted.

One statutory requirement set at the last inspection has not been addressed. Although monitoring of the home, its systems, processes, procedures and practices

is undertaken regularly by the Registered Manager, reports of this monitoring are not sent to Ofsted every three months as required. As monitoring is thorough and robust, this issue does not impact on the quality of care provided to young people. However, it means that Ofsted does not receive the information it needs to maintain oversight of the quality of the provision and reassurance that the children's home is being managed effectively. A repeat statutory requirement will be raised in this report.

Young people speak positively about living in this home. They feel staff care for them well and provide good support at all times. Young people are not happy with the home's environment, which is a view shared by staff and managers. The home is no longer fit for purpose. Young people have been involved in the plans for moving to a new purpose built secure children's home on the same site. For example, they have designed the logo for the new home. Young people are very much looking forward to the move as are staff and managers.

Young people's needs are assessed on admission to the home. The assessment leads to formal care planning that sets out young people's needs and how these needs will be met on a day-to-day basis by staff. Planning for moving on is also effective and young people are prepared well for their next placement and return to living in the community. Young people are supported by staff to learn skills for adulthood as well as other skills that help to address the reasons why they were placed in secure accommodation. A young person spoke highly of the excellent support staff had provided him in developing life skills, such as cooking and budgeting. Other work undertaken with young people includes a range of programmes such as social skills, anger management, gang culture and self-awareness.

Incidents of physical restraint do occur. These are all well recorded and monitored closely by managers. As well as checking records, managers use closed-circuit television recordings to verify records and to ensure that staff practices are appropriate. Any shortfalls in the expected high standards are immediately addressed.

Single separation is used in line with government guidance; that is only when a young person presents a risk to themselves, others or where there is damage to property. All use of single separation is fully recorded and details the observations made on young people to keep them safe. Work is undertaken with young people to reintegrate them into the social group as soon as possible.

The home has a strong focus on positive behaviour management. There are times when sanctions are used to address negative behaviour. Each sanction used is fully recorded and young people have the opportunity to see these records and add their comments. There is well-established and positive use of restorative practices. Young people are helped to understand what they have done wrong and the impact it has had. They are supported to put right what they have done wrong through

restorative work, such as meeting with others their behaviour has impacted on and to make good what they have done wrong.

There have been a number of child protection referrals and requests made to the local authority for advice on safeguarding matters. Each incident has been referred appropriately to the local authority and almost all in a timely manner. All incidents are fully and clearly recorded along with decisions and actions taken to keep young people safe. All matters have been dealt with in line with procedures. One matter was subject to a slight delay in it being referred to the local authority. However, the Registered Manager has taken action about this issue and put in place appropriate measures to ensure that this does not happen again. The slight delay had minimal impact on this issue.

Young people have access to the complaints procedure. Forms are freely available and they have the means to complain directly to managers without referring to staff. Complaints are fully recorded showing the issue, action taken and the outcome. Records also show the complainants views and that they are happy with the process undertaken and the outcome.

The home has good monitoring systems in place. Monthly visits by an independent person take place and reports of such visits help managers to improve the quality of care provided to young people. Senior managers in the local authority are working with the independent visitors to ensure the process and reports are of the high standard expected. Internal monitoring systems are good. The Registered Manager regularly and robustly monitors a range of records, processes and practices. This ensures that any shortfalls are identified and addressed quickly so that care provided to young people is maintained at a good level at all times.

The home has established working partnerships in place that ensure young people receive appropriate services and care to meet their needs. Among others, there are good links with the local authority, the Youth justice Board, placing authorities, police, the Local Safeguarding Children Board and health services.

Information about this children's home

This secure children's home is managed by a local authority. It is approved by the Department for Education to restrict young people's liberty. As well as the living accommodation, education is provided on site in dedicated facilities.

The children's home can accommodate up to 24 young people, who are aged between 10 and 17 years. It provides for up to 22 young people placed by the Youth Justice Board and two places for young people accommodated under section 25 of the Children Act 1989.

Admission of any young person under section 25 of the Children Act 1989 who are over the age of 10 but under 13 years of age requires the approval of the Secretary of State.'

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
31/07/2014	Full	good
12/12/2013	Interim	inadequate progress
01/05/2013	Full	good
23/01/2013	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
34 (2001)	ensure that the registered person supplies a report in respect of any review conducted by him for the purposes of paragraph (1) to the HMCI. (Regulation 34(2))	28/02/2015

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.