

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC021679
Inspector	Jo Hornby
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Registered person	Care Today (Children's Services) Ltd
Registered person address	Lansdowne House 85 Buxton Road STOCKPORT Cheshire SK2 6LR
Responsible individual	Vivien Anne Snape
Registered manager	Nigel Ray Evans
Date of last inspection	18/07/2014

Inspection date	24/02/2015
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 benefit from living in a home where they are encouraged to develop appropriate life skills for their age and level of understanding. The progress they have made in relation to their independence is good. They enjoy a full range of experiences that further enhance their life skills and social experiences. For example young people learn how to budget, cook meals and do their own laundry. This level of engagement contributes positively to young people's social skills and confidence. Furthermore, this enables them to develop the necessary emotional and practical skills as they make the transition to independence.

The Registered Manager has now made effective improvements to the admissions process. For example, young people now engage in less risk taking behaviour, and incidents of young people going missing from the home have substantially reduced. The Registered Manager's consultation with external agencies such as schools, demonstrates that they continue to work well with other professionals to improve outcomes for young people.

Young people are cared for by an experienced staff team, consequently young people are making good progress in many aspects of their lives. Young people are comfortable with the staff and appear settled in their home. One young person commented, 'it's good here, I feel safe and I get on with the staff. I cook and bake with staff and go to college.'

The two recommendations made at the last inspection have been suitably addressed. Consultation surveys are clearly recorded and the Registered Manager responds to comments raised by parents. Furniture and wallpaper have been updated, with young people being involved in choosing the paint and wallpaper for the activity room. Consequently, young people take a pride in their environment,

and the learning opportunities which they are afforded assist in developing their independence skills.

Young people are welcomed into the home and whenever possible the Registered Manager visits the young person prior to admission. This procedure ensures that staff are fully able to meet the young person's individual needs. Consequently young people are well prepared and have an understanding of what to expect from their new environment. A social worker commented, 'the admission process is excellent; staff are attentive and know the young people well and offer appropriate support and guidance'.

Staff take an individualised approach to care planning. Young people are treated as individuals with their own set of unique needs. These are documented in their care plans which are personalised and reflect young people's developmental progress. Staff demonstrate a commitment to meeting these needs and assist young people to overcome the challenges they face in their lives. This approach is effective and evidenced in the progress which the young people have made in their lives. One staff member said, 'the young people have gained confidence and most of them are engaging in education which is really important. Young people are settled and doing really well.'

Staff have high aspirations for all young people and provide support, guidance and consistency. They provide praise and recognition for achievements young people make. They work closely with social workers and education professionals to identify suitable education provision. Most young people engage in school and further education and their attendance is good. One young person said, 'I go to college and I want to work in make up for TV. If I work hard then the staff say they will buy me the special make up I need.'

Staff have well established relationships with key people who are identified as important to the young people and contact with them is promoted. This enables young people to continue to be connected to their families and affords consistent care. One young person said, 'I see my Nan and Granddad every week and my mum, brother and sister once a month, I want to be able to live somewhere between here and my Nan and Granddad's home when I leave care.'

The Registered Manager and staff work together with other agencies to get the best outcomes for children and young people. One social worker commented 'young people are very happy and settled and this is evidenced in that behaviours of concern have reduced. I can't fault the communication from the staff. All significant events are recorded and sent to me and I have regular contact with the manager. I have no concerns with the care; fabulous progress has been made.'

Information about this children's home

The home is one of a number of children's homes run by a private organisation. This home provides medium- to long-term care for up to four young people who experience emotional and/or behavioural difficulties.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
18/07/2014	Full	good
12/03/2014	Interim	good progress
13/12/2013	Full	good
15/02/2013	Interim	satisfactory progress

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.