

Inspection report for children's home

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<b>Unique reference number</b>	SC039900
<b>Inspector</b>	Andrew Hewston
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Interim
<b>Provision subtype</b>	Children's home

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<b>Registered person</b>	Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council
<b>Registered person address</b>	Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council 3 St. James's Road DUDLEY West Midlands DY1 1HZ
<b>Responsible individual</b>	Nicola Jane Prashar
<b>Registered manager</b>	Mark Bates
<b>Date of last inspection</b>	27/11/2014

<b>Inspection date</b>	17/03/2015
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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**.

The home continues to offer a high level of care. Young people develop in differing aspects of their lives, specifically with regard to improvements in their health and also increasing their levels of communication. A parent stated that they were, 'really pleased with how he is getting on. He has lost weight and is now more interested in being active.'

The home offers a stable environment with only one young person moving from and into the home since the last inspection. Transition arrangements are well organised, including visits and in depth assessments before either leaving the home or being admitted. This stability allows staff to have a thorough awareness of the needs of the young people and develop a plan that is responsive to their needs.

The home is well looked after, with repairs and decoration completed swiftly. All areas are comfortable and displays include art work completed by young people. A well organised recording system ensures that all necessary health and safety checks are completed. This supports the welfare of both young people and staff.

Young people are able to access a good range of activities within the home due to the high level of resources, including a spa area, dark room, 'messy play' area and three lounge areas. This ensures that young people can either be involved with communal activities or spend time more independently. Young people access differing activities within the community. The lack of diverse activity planning was raised at the last inspection and staff are able to discuss how this has developed and they have increased levels of evidence to respond to this area. Young people were observed during the inspection enjoying going out for walks, spending time with their families, enjoying watching differing videos on the computer and spending time relaxing on their own.

Staff use a range of differing techniques to promote positive behaviour and distract young people from being involved in behaviour that may cause concern to both staff or other young people. Restraint is used as a last resort and when completed is fully recorded showing how this supported and safeguarded.

Where the home has been involved with concerns regarding the safety of young people they have attended all necessary meetings and recorded their involvement with agencies well.

All young people have risk assessments that relate to differing aspects of their lives at the home. These are regularly updated and take into consideration recent staff observations and behaviours exhibited. This ensures that young people are kept safe within all aspects of their time at the home.

The home is monitored through both the Registered Manager and an external party examining recordings and systems at the home. No external monitoring reports have been received by Ofsted from the home since November. Reports are available within the home however and help to support the manager developing care practice. Some examination of physical interventions has been recorded in the wrong months report and this does not help to support the examination of trends in practice. The external visitor contacts a range of parties involved with the care of the young people, including parents, social workers and discussions with the young people about their care. An independent reviewing officer recently commented that the 'care provided is excellent and (young person) has thrived in her placement.'

The home has a development plan in place which has recently been updated and examines the progress that the manager would like to make over the coming years in a range of areas.

## Information about this children's home

This local authority owned home provides care for up to seven children. The home can accommodate children with moderate to severe learning and/or physical disabilities.

## Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
27/11/2014	Full	good
18/03/2014	Interim	good progress
21/11/2013	Full	outstanding
11/03/2013	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)	The registered provider shall supply a copy of the report required to be made under paragraph to HMCI(Regulation 33 (5)(a))	30/04/2015

### Recommendations

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

- ensure visits of the home carried out under Regulation 33 include relevant checks set out in regulations and guidance and checks of any disciplinary measures and use of restraint and records of missing person's reports (NMS 21.7)



## **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.