

Inspection report for children's home

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<b>Unique reference number</b>	SC458021
<b>Inspector</b>	Anne Daly
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Interim
<b>Provision subtype</b>	Children's home

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<b>Registered person</b>	Stoke on Trent City Council
<b>Registered person address</b>	City of Stoke-on-Trent, Civic Centre Glebe Street STOKE-ON-TRENT ST4 1HH
<b>Responsible individual</b>	Susan Hammersley
<b>Registered manager</b>	POST VACANT
<b>Date of last inspection</b>	18/12/2014

<b>Inspection date</b>	24/03/2015
Previous inspection	adequate
Enforcement action since last inspection	none

## This inspection

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

Young people continue to make good progress in most areas of their lives as a result of the care and support they receive. They have strong relationships with staff, which support them developing a strong self-view. As a result, young people grow in self-confidence. As one family member commented, 'staff have turned him around, he now has goals and direction in his life'.

Young people benefit from consistency which gives them a sense of emotional security. As one educational professional reflected, 'the home has given him a stable base to develop from'. Where young people are not engaging in education or training, staff have consistently advocated on their behalf to identify alternative provision.

Young people are supported to maintain contact with family members. This ensures they remain in touch with important people in their lives. As a result they feel valued.

There is no Registered Manager in post. The new manager has recently submitted her application to Ofsted for registration. The manager has responded promptly to the shortfalls identified at the last inspection. She has begun to evaluate and develop the quality assurance process. This has recently been strengthened by the secondment of an assistant manager to the home and improvements in the monitoring arrangements by the independent visitor. Young people's files have been revised to ensure their views and progress are reflected. Staff receive training to equip them to meet the presenting needs of young people. A comprehensive management review has been submitted to Ofsted which clearly demonstrates an understanding of the strengths and areas for future development. These actions have enhanced the quality of the service offered to young people.

Young people say they feel safe and are confident that staff will respond appropriately to protect them. A strength of the home is effective behaviour management. This means that staff identify problems early and step in to prevent escalation. As a result, the use of physical intervention is low because staff promote positive behaviour.

Young people are rarely missing from the home. When they are, the appropriate procedures have been followed but the recording has not consistently reflected how the incident was managed and what steps the home undertook to prevent reoccurrence. The manager has recognised this shortfall and recording procedures are currently being improved.

Partnership working is strong, with staff working effectively and collaboratively with other services to ensure young people's needs are met. Communication with other agencies is consistent.

## Information about this children's home

This is a small group home operated by a local authority. The home provides care and accommodation for two children who have emotional and/or behavioural difficulties.

## Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
18/12/2014	Full	adequate
26/02/2014	Interim	good progress
19/06/2013	Full	adequate

## 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 that the written records kept by the home when a child goes missing detail the circumstances of the child's return, any reasons given by the child for running away from the home and any action taken in light of those reasons to prevent a recurrence (NMS 5.10)

## 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.