

## Children's homes - interim inspection

<b>Inspection date</b>	<b>27/01/2016</b>
<b>Unique reference number</b>	<b>SC034900</b>
<b>Type of inspection</b>	<b>Interim</b>
<b>Provision subtype</b>	<b>Children's home</b>
<b>Registered person</b>	<b>Nottingham City Council</b>
<b>Registered person address</b>	<b>Nottingham City Council, Loxley House, Station Street, NOTTINGHAM, NG2 3NG</b>

<b>Responsible individual</b>	<b>Kay Sutt</b>
<b>Registered manager</b>	<b>John Imms</b>
<b>Inspector</b>	<b>Amanda Ellis</b>

<b>Inspection date</b>	<b>27/01/2016</b>
<b>Previous inspection judgement</b>	<b>Outstanding</b>
<b>Enforcement action since last inspection</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>This inspection</b>	
<b>The effectiveness of the home and the progress and experiences of children and young people since the most recent full inspection</b>	
<p>This home was judged <b>Outstanding</b> at the full inspection. At this interim inspection Ofsted judge that it has <b>improved effectiveness</b>.</p> <p>The last full inspection identified two areas of practice in need of improvement. Firstly, to ensure the timely reporting of safeguarding issues to the relevant authorities. Since the last inspection, the home has had one safeguarding issue. Managers made immediate notifications to safeguarding agencies and Ofsted. This ensured that external agencies could monitor the effectiveness of the home in managing safeguarding incidents. Secondly, the home was required to ensure that the storage of controlled drugs complied with guidance. In response, the management team audited their medication storage methods. A medical practitioner has also inspected the provision and confirmed that systems are compliant with guidance. This combined improvement reinforces the already excellent safeguarding practice.</p> <p>This short-break service continues to provide outstanding quality care, with a clear commitment to delivering positive outcomes for children and young people. The service has not only continued to ensure excellent quality of care for children and young people, but has built upon and improved the care provided.</p> <p>The child-focused and enthusiastic management team constantly seek ways to drive up standards in service provision. Planning and service development are key priorities for the management team. Detailed and regularly reviewed development plans, combined with rigorous quality assurance, ensure continual improvement. Additionally, managers demonstrate very effective consultation with staff, young people, families and professionals to understand what they need.</p> <p>A key strength of this service is the professionalism and commitment of the managers and staff. Managers have high levels of expertise and professional qualifications. They ensure the professional development of the staff team through structured training programmes, bespoke training packages, and reflective supervision. This enables staff to attain excellent levels of knowledge and expertise. Children and young people thrive because the staff team and managers are knowledgeable, experienced and highly skilled.</p>	

Equality and diversity issues are central to all work with children, young people, and their families or carers. The service provision recognises children and young people as individuals and strives to ensure that they have equality of opportunity to extend their horizons, learn and develop. One young person who has an interest in politics enjoyed a trip to the Houses of Parliament. Staff organised this by writing to political leaders to highlight the young person's interest in the general election. The individual interests, choices and preferences of children and young people are central to care planning. This fully embraces and promotes their unique identity needs.

Community integration is a key focus of this home. One young person who is a talented artist has linked up with Nottingham Contemporary Art Gallery. He displays his work and is provided with a specialist tutor. The home has exceptionally strong links with other local resources, including churches, voluntary groups, and theatrical or arts venues. Young people with an interest in music enjoyed attending to a wide range of music festivals over the summer period. A social worker stated: 'Staff make sure there are no barriers to young people. They are creative and willing to experiment to make sure children and young people have excellent experiences and outcomes.'

Parents and carers provide very positive feedback about the effectiveness of the home in promoting progress. Comments include: 'My son's progress is directly attributable to the care provided'; 'the care is amazing', 'communication with the staff is brilliant' and, 'I can rely on them, I know them all so well.' Education and social care professionals equally commend the service provision. One headteacher said: 'Partnership and communication is absolutely fabulous.' A social worker stated: 'This is a highly valuable resource. An outstanding home for these children and young people.' These comments are testament to the continuing excellent standards within this home.

### **Information about this children's home**

The home is registered to care for 11 young people. It provides short breaks to young people with a learning disability and associated physical disability. The home is run by a local authority.

### **Recent inspection history**

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
23/09/2015	CH - Full	Outstanding
27/03/2015	CH - Interim	improved effectiveness
15/09/2014	CH - Full	Good
05/03/2014	CH - Interim	Satisfactory Progress

## **What the inspection judgements mean**

At the interim inspection 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**

Inspectors have looked closely at the experiences and progress of children and young people living in the children's home. Inspectors considered the quality of work and the difference adults make to the lives of children and young people. They read case files, watched how professional staff work with children, young people and each other and discussed the effectiveness of help and care given to children and young people. Wherever possible, they talked to children, young people and their families. In addition the inspectors have tried to understand what the children's home knows about how well it is performing, how well it is doing and what difference it is making for the children and young people who it is trying to help, protect and look after.

This inspection focused on the effectiveness of the home and the progress and experiences of children and young people since the most recent full inspection.

This 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 Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015 and the *Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards*.

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