

Children's homes - interim inspection

Inspection date	03/02/2016
Unique reference number	SC046524
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Secure Unit
Registered person	Sheffield City Council
Registered person address	Sheffield City Council, Town Hall, Pinstone Street, SHEFFIELD, S1 2HH

Responsible individual	Dorne Collinson
Registered manager	Kieran Hill
Inspector	Paul Taylor

Inspection date	02/02/2016
Previous inspection judgement	Improved effectiveness
Enforcement action since last inspection	None
This inspection	
The effectiveness of the home and the progress and experiences of children and young people since the most recent full inspection	
<p>This home was judged Good at the last full inspection. At this interim inspection Ofsted judge that it has Improved Effectiveness.</p> <p>The one requirement and one recommendation made at the last inspection have been met.</p> <p>Recruitment records now contain all the information required and in particular, records are maintained of why members of staff have left previous employment working with children or vulnerable adults. This ensures that managers have confidence in staff's employment history and they are suitable to work with vulnerable young people.</p> <p>A rolling program has ensured that all staff have received training in working with young people who are at risk of, or have been subject to, sexual exploitation. Training has also been provided in radicalisation awareness and the Government's 'Prevent Agenda'. This training means that staff's knowledge in key areas is kept up to date and supports them in their roles.</p> <p>Since the last inspection the home has been undergoing significant refurbishment, with improvements to decor and in the upgrading of facilities on-site. One unit lounge has been redecorated and refurbished, and the young people appreciate this. A young person stated, 'Much better now; it's good, it really is.'</p> <p>Close support for the young people enables them to make good, and in some cases, excellent progress. Bespoke behaviour management plans, which have been developed using advice and guidance from the mental health services on-site, have assisted young people to develop positive coping strategies. Staff commitment, resilience and tenacity is key in providing young people with the specialised support they need. This has led to a marked reduction in challenging incidents. One young person said, 'I walk away from trouble now. I would give this place ten out of ten; it has done me good.'</p> <p>Emphasis is placed on reflection on behaviour, and the use of restorative justice conversations to resolve conflict and address poor conduct. As a result, these sessions outweigh the implementation of sanctions avoiding punitive responses.</p>	

Staff present as good role models for the young people and encourage them to put right what they have done wrong. Records of restorative practice are completed and monitored; however, there have been instances where the outcome and resolution to restorative conversations has not been recorded. This is a minor shortfall and does not impact on the young people's wellbeing.

The monitoring of incidents is thorough. Senior managers review all incidents of restraint and this scrutiny is added to by external review from representatives from the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB). Additionally, managers from the home contact an independent advocate after any restraint incident and invite them to get in touch with the young person to discuss the matter. This ensures that the young person has access to independent external support and representation if they require it. In turn, young people can instigate contact with the advocate if they wish and have numerous other avenues they can follow if they wish to raise a concern about any matter. Young people are seen to be confident in expressing their views and records of complaints show how they have been resolved to the complainant's satisfaction.

Sensitive and well planned processes for both the admission and resettlement of young people are provided. Such attention to detail has enabled young people to settle into the life and routine of the home. Preparation for moving on is very carefully thought through. Good examples of this process show that staff and managers have liaised closely with the next placement and all relevant professionals. This has ensured that a co-ordinated smooth transition has been achieved for the benefit of the young people.

Staff and managers have played key roles in facilitating contact with young people and their families, and in providing excellent support to them at particularly trying and stressful times. This support is appreciated by parents who voice praise for the staff involved; 'They explain everything and make us feel welcome.' 'They reassured us he was ok.'

The home continues to have good links and partnerships with external services, agencies and organisations, and welcome feedback on how they are performing. A representative from the LSCB stated, 'There is an ethos of wishing to improve.' The work undertaken ensures that young people receive the services, support and advice they need to make good progress, and that practice is robustly monitored through transparency and collaboration.

Information about this children's home

This secure children's home is operated by a local authority and is approved by the Secretary of State to restrict young people's liberty. The children's home can accommodate up to eight young people who are aged between 10 and 17 years. It provides for up to five young people placed by the Youth Justice Board and three places for young people accommodated under section 25 of the Children Act 1989 who are placed by local authorities. Admission of any young person under section 25 of the Children Act 1989 who are under 13 years of age, requires the approval of the Secretary of State. Education is provided on site in dedicated facilities.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
10/03/2015	CH - Interim	improved effectiveness
01/07/2014	CH - Full	Good
11/02/2014	CH - Interim	Satisfactory Progress
03/10/2013	CH - Full	Good

What does the children's home need to do to improve?

Recommendations

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

- Ensure staff are familiar with the home's policies on record keeping and understand the importance of careful, objective, and clear recording. Staff should record information on individual children in a non-stigmatising way that distinguishes between fact, opinion and third-party information. Information about the child must always be recorded in a way that will be helpful to the child; specifically, ensure restorative conversations are fully recorded. (The Guide to the Quality Standards, page 62 paragraph 14.4)

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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