

## Children's homes - interim inspection

<b>Inspection date</b>	<b>21/03/2016</b>
<b>Unique reference number</b>	<b>SC039900</b>
<b>Type of inspection</b>	<b>Interim</b>
<b>Provision subtype</b>	<b>Children's home</b>
<b>Registered person</b>	<b>Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council</b>
<b>Registered person address</b>	<b>Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council, Council House, Mary Stevens Park, STOURBRIDGE, West Midlands, DY8 2AA</b>

<b>Responsible individual</b>	<b>Merlin Joseph</b>
<b>Registered manager</b>	<b>Mark Bates</b>
<b>Inspector</b>	<b>Andrew Hewston</b>

<b>Inspection date</b>	<b>21/03/2016</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>sustained effectiveness</b>.</p>	
<p>The home continues to offer a high level of care to the young people. The home is settled, with no young people being admitted or leaving the home since the last inspection.</p> <p>Young people develop while at the home. During the inspection one young person was away on a trip without staff, the first time this has been completed with them. Staff have a strong awareness of young people's health and a new dietician has recently become involved with the home, offering guidance in both differing foods and quantities best suited to them.</p> <p>All young people attend school regularly. The head teacher of one of the schools stated that 'I couldn't praise them enough, they do a brilliant job with looking after the young people and helping to make sure that they are settled for school. Communication is always really strong; they know the young people really well.' School achievements are celebrated and a notice board in the reception is updated regularly with certificates of success.</p> <p>Staff meet with young people in both individual and group forums, gaining their views on areas such as activities and menus. An independent advocate visits the home monthly, helping to support young people's views.</p> <p>Strong monitoring systems are in place to help support and develop the home. Monthly monitoring from an external organisation are submitted regularly. These look at records and include discussions with young people, families and social workers to gain their views about the care provided. Action points raised are rare and are responded to swiftly. Internal monitoring is completed by the management team and examine the successes of the young people as well as looking at developmental points to further improve the service.</p> <p>Young people's safety is supported consistently. No incidents relating to young people going missing or complaints being raised have occurred since the last inspection. The manager is aware of the need to highlight significant events to differing bodies. This has not been necessary. Staff have a good awareness of behaviour management plans, and work well with young people to decrease challenging behaviours through effective interactions. Two restraints have occurred</p>	

since the last inspection. These are well recorded and show the legitimacy of the intervention, as well as looking at possible ways that things could be done differently should such an event occur again.

Staff work with a wide range of professionals to support the young people. Recent questionnaires at the home are consistently positive, including parents stating, 'they do a brilliant job and have helped my daughter so much', 'she has developed really well in every way.' An independent reviewing officer stated that, 'I have always found the staff to be supportive and knowledgeable about the children they care for and appropriately informative when sharing information.'

One requirement was made at the last inspection relating to increasing information about young people's development. Young people's information now includes improved records relating to activities that they have been involved in and trips out.

## Information about this children's home

This home is one of five local authority homes. It is registered for up to seven young people with learning disabilities and is situated within an urban area.

## Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
11/11/2015	CH - Full	Outstanding
17/03/2015	CH - Interim	Sustained effectiveness
27/11/2014	CH - Full	Good
18/03/2014	CH - Interim	Good 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*.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the guidance *raising concerns and making complaints about Ofsted*, which is available from Ofsted's website: [www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted). If you would like Ofsted to send you a copy of the guidance, please telephone 0300123 4234, or email [enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk).

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, workbased learning and skills training, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It inspects services for looked after children and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 4234, or email [enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk).

You may reuse this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, visit [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence), write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: [psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk).

This publication is available at [www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted).

Interested in our work? You can subscribe to our monthly newsletter for more information and updates: <http://eepurl.com/iTrDn>.

Piccadilly Gate  
Store Street  
Manchester  
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 1231  
Textphone: 0161 618 8524  
E: [enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk)  
W: [www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted)

© Crown copyright 2016