

Children's homes - interim inspection

Inspection date	13/10/2015
Unique reference number	SC033457
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Secure Unit
Registered person	Leeds City Council
Registered person address	Leeds City Council, 3rd Floor, St George House, Great George Street, LEEDS, LS1 3DL

Responsible individual	Mr Stephen Walker
Registered manager	Mr Francis N'Jie
Inspector	Mr Shaun Common

Inspection date	13/10/2015
Previous inspection judgement	Good
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>At the last inspection of the home in May 2015, two statutory requirements and seven recommendations were made. Four recommendations related to the education provision and will be assessed at the next full inspection. The two statutory requirements and three remaining recommendations have been fully met. This demonstrates commitment to further improving the quality of care and provision for young people.</p> <p>Staff have received further guidance and support in relation to using physical restraint. Staff now have a clearer awareness and understanding of guidance and legislation. All physical restraint incidents are reviewed by a duty manager and then further reviewed by the assistant manager or Registered Manager. This provides layers of scrutiny and quality assurance of practices. Items are no longer routinely removed from young people's rooms when concerns arise and staff refer to risk assessments in deciding what to remove in order to help keep young people safe. Monitoring takes place by managers to ensure practice is appropriate. Staff have received guidance on the use of ligature cutters in order to provide safe care. Night care officers now regularly meet with a team manager. Minutes of these meetings are shared with senior managers so that any matters raised can be responded to formally. This ensures night care staff feel included and supported.</p> <p>The manager has been registered with Ofsted and in charge of this home for many years. He is very experienced and qualified. He has plans in place to further develop services and practices in order to provide high quality care for young people.</p> <p>Admission processes and procedures ensure a sensitive and supportive approach is taken with young people when they arrive at the home. Young people are given information and reassurance that helps them settle in quickly. They have time with their keyworker who discusses the routines and what to expect. Programme Development Officers ensure a plan is developed for all young people in line with their assessed needs. Staff understand young people's needs well and how to meet these on a day-to-day basis.</p>	

Young people are making good progress. Staff and young people have good relationships and partnership working is effective leading to good outcomes. There are effective partnerships between education, health, care staff, placing authorities and other relevant agencies that supports effective planning to meet young people's needs.

Young people receive good support in preparing them for moving back to community living. Plans developed and implemented include approved mobility or release on temporary licence where appropriate. This enables young people to establish or re-establish relationships, familiarise themselves with new placements and attain reassurance.

The complaint system and procedure called 'can I have a word' is well established and known by young people. Young people are able to raise any concerns they may have. All complaints are dealt with in a timely manner and records reflect the process followed and actions taken. Young people always add their comments or sign the records to show whether they are satisfied with the outcome. There are options available to young people to progress to the next level if they are not satisfied with the outcome of any complaint.

There have been four child protection matters since the last inspection. All have been appropriately dealt with in a timely manner. Referrals are made to the local authority multi-agency safeguarding hub (MASH) and local authority designated officer (LADO) as appropriate. Other relevant professionals and families are notified. Records are well kept that show the detailed actions taken, progress being made and outcomes.

Incidents requiring the use of physical restraint do occur. All incidents are fully recorded and contain all required details. Young people given the opportunity to see a health professional and to add comments and/or sign the records. Staff and young people are provided with the opportunity to engage in debriefs. Better use of debriefs to inform planning and behaviour management strategies could improve practices further. Managers examine records and closed-circuit television (CCTV) to ensure practice is appropriate and commensurate with government guidance.

There are occasions when the 'managing away' procedure is used. This involves managing a young person away from their peers and/or normal routine due to risks they pose to themselves or others. Managing away can be in a lounge, classroom or sometimes a bedroom corridor depending on circumstances, risk assessment and what is most suitable. The process endeavours to ensure that young people return to their normal routine as soon as it is appropriate to do so. Use of managing away is recorded, though records are inconsistent. Some are very clear and show the place the incident is being managed, all actions, including regular updates on assessment of risk, work being undertaken with the young person, their specific routine and when the incident comes to an end. However,

some do not show these factors in sufficient detail. As this process and procedure is new, the manager advised that staff are still adapting to it and learning what is needed. Guidance is being provided by the manager along with oversight and monitoring to ensure this improves.

Since the last inspection, the home has made a number of improvements and staff and managers demonstrate a commitment to continue to further improve the service provided to young people. Care and education staff are working more closely to support young people to achieve their potential. For example, helping young people to achieve qualifications. Six have achieved a qualification in first aid, nine in food hygiene and six in a technology project which are all accredited. Education staff are working with providers helping to deliver a wider range of vocational courses to young people. For example, the Motor Vehicle Mechanics tutor has been seconded to a local education facility for three sessions per week. In return the education facility provides the home with a Health and Beauty Instructor for the same period.

The service has admitted female young people for the first time. This has been positive to date with regular reviews identifying learning and areas for improvement in practices. Delivery of group-work and offending behaviour programmes has increased. Health care have been involved with this providing one-to-one work with young people at risk of illicit drug use and delivering group work intervention to all young people to promote awareness of the effects of illicit substances. A number of young people have been successful in passing their Duke of Edinburgh bronze and silver awards developing skills in new activities and volunteering.

Information about this children's home

This secure children's home is managed by a local authority. It is approved by the Department for Education to restrict young people's liberty. The children's home can accommodate up to 24 young people, who are aged between 10 and 17 years. It provides for up to 22 young people placed by the Youth Justice Board and two 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
16/01/2015	CH - Interim	Sustained effectiveness
31/07/2014	CH - Full	Good
12/12/2013	CH - Interim	Inadequate Progress
01/05/2013	CH - Full	Good
23/01/2013	CH - Interim	Good Progress
09/05/2012	CH - Full	Good
11/01/2012	CH - Interim	Satisfactory Progress
05/07/2011	CH - Full	Good
12/01/2011	CH - Interim	Good
22/09/2010	CH - Full	Good
21/01/2010	CH - Interim	Satisfactory
25/08/2009	CH - Full	Good
21/01/2009	CH - Interim	Good
07/08/2008	CH - Full	Satisfactory
26/03/2008	CH - Full	Good
31/07/2007	CH - Interim	Satisfactory

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

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 (England) Regulations 2015 and the *Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards*. The registered person(s) must comply with the given timescales.

Requirement	Due date
ensure that within 24 hours of the use of a measure of control or restraint in relation to a child in the home, a record is made which includes the matters set out in the regulation; specifically, ensure managing away records are clearly and accurately recorded in line with the regulation. (Regulation 34)	31/12/2015

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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