

## Children's homes – Interim inspection

<b>Inspection date</b>	<b>14/03/2017</b>
<b>Unique reference number</b>	<b>1155768</b>
<b>Type of inspection</b>	<b>Interim</b>
<b>Provision subtype</b>	<b>Children's home</b>
<b>Registered provider</b>	<b>Worcestershire City Council</b>
<b>Registered provider address</b>	<b>County Hall, Spetchley Hall, Worcester WR5 2NP</b>

<b>Responsible individual</b>	<b>Jake Shaw</b>
<b>Registered manager</b>	<b>Barbara Layton</b>
<b>Inspector</b>	<b>Anna Rudge</b>

<b>Inspection date</b>	<b>14/03/2017</b>
<b>Previous inspection judgement</b>	<b>Outstanding</b>
<b>Enforcement action since last inspection</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>This inspection</b>	
<p><b>The effectiveness of the home and the progress and experiences of children and young people since the most recent full inspection</b></p> <p>This home was judged <b>outstanding</b> at the full inspection. At this interim inspection, Ofsted judges that it has <b>sustained effectiveness</b>.</p> <p>Young people continue to make outstanding progress. The registered manager ensures that young people receive high levels of warmth and reassurance from staff who are trained in specialist therapeutic approaches. This means that young people who have emotional and/or behavioural difficulties are well supported to manage their feelings of upset and anxiety, promoting their health and overall well-being.</p> <p>The registered manager has worked hard to ensure that the environment is decorated to a very high standard, with modern furnishings. This makes it a relaxed, homely place for young people to live. As a consequence, young people are comfortable and reassured by their surroundings, enabling them to enjoy positive experiences with other young people.</p> <p>Young people are able to access a variety of creative and bespoke activities. Young people have a choice in the activities and are able to decide where they go on holiday. For example, one young person is planning to join sea cadets, and staff are assisting with equipment and practical arrangements to make this happen. Another young person is planning a trip abroad. This means that young people are given opportunities to meet other young people outside of their home. This enhances their progress and sense of achievement.</p> <p>The staff team ensures that young people's challenging behaviour is well managed through vigorous and safe care planning. Young people are kept safe with minimal use of physical intervention. There have been no episodes of missing-from-care or child sexual exploitation since the last inspection. Subsequently, young people are safe and are supported to make positive choices. Safeguarding concerns are managed well and procedures are followed to protect young people. However, safeguarding referrals are not consistently recorded with clear outcomes by the registered manager to track the progress and outcomes for young people.</p> <p>The registered manager and staff team work in partnership with other professionals, such as education, police, therapists, advocates and social workers. This means that the overall needs of young people are met, enabling them to make</p>	

outstanding progress. A social worker told the inspector, 'Staff are excellent in communicating with family, with supporting contact arrangements for young people, and they challenge appropriately and push for young people to progress.'

Some young people have challenging behaviour and may place themselves at risk of harm when in the community. As a result, staff practice involves restricting young people's liberty by locking external doors, which prevents their freedom of movement. This means that young people are not able to leave the home without restriction. As a consequence, this could prevent young people from having the opportunity to move freely and from developing their independence.

The registered manager and staff team continue to provide an outstanding service to young people and their families. The nurturing approach of staff results in young people making positive progress while feeling safe and secure. One young person told the inspector, 'It is really good actually, well as good as it can be in terms of being in care. The food is good and I have lots of choice, we eat out once a month and I go to the cinema, go carting and swimming.'

## Information about this children's home

This is a local authority-operated home. It provides care and accommodation for up to three young people who have emotional and/or behavioural difficulties.

## Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
06/09/2016	Full	Outstanding
29/10/2015	Full	Outstanding

## 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 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 must comply within the given timescales.

Requirement	Due date
<p>20: Restraint and deprivation of liberty</p> <p>The registered person must ensure that restraint in relation to a child must be necessary and proportionate (Regulation 20 (2)). This specifically relates to young people being able to freely exit the building.</p>	30/04/2017
<p>34: Policies for the protection of children</p> <p>(2) The procedure to be followed in the event of an allegation of abuse or neglect must, in particular—</p> <p>(d) provide for records to be kept of an allegation of abuse or neglect, and the action taken in response.</p>	31/03/2017

## **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 that 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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