

# 1240844

Registered provider: Care 4 Children Holdco Limited

Interim inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

## Information about this children's home

The children's home is managed by a private organisation. It provides care and accommodation for two young people aged between 10 and 17 years who have emotional and/or behavioural difficulties.

**Inspection date:** 16 February 2018

**Judgement at last inspection:** good

**Date of last inspection:** 3 May 2017

**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

This home was judged good at the last full inspection.  
At the interim inspection, Ofsted judges that it has improved effectiveness.

Good progress has been made since the last full inspection in May 2017. The one requirement and three recommendations from the previous inspection are met and the registered manager has improved the recording of children's records.

The home provides a homely and welcoming environment where young people feel safe and secure. The home is comfortable, well decorated and well furnished. It is located within a small community and the young people are well known in the area. The young people have learned useful skills at their education provision and local children are now aware of this and approach the young people at the home to fix their bikes and mend

their punctures. The young people do this willingly and are only too happy to help. As a result, they have developed strong relationships in the area and attend local groups. Consequently, they feel part of the community and see the area as a place they want to make their home in the future.

The young people in placement are making excellent progress from their starting points. For example, all young people attend educational provision and one young person has improved their attendance significantly since the last inspection. Another young person has earned the position of 'junior instructor'. This has given the young person extra responsibility, and he is financially rewarded for his efforts. Young people are ambitious for their future and are attending open days at college and exploring the opportunities to undertake an apprenticeship.

Young people rarely go missing from this home. While part of this is attributable to the mix of young people in placement, it is also down to the hard work of staff and managers. For example, staff have thought more carefully about matching the needs of young people and ensuring that detailed risk assessments help staff to manage risks associated with young people. Staff are also provided with training in areas, such as child sexual exploitation, that help staff to understand risks and how to keep young people safe.

Young people are now more engaged in key-work sessions and residents' meetings. They have a choice of activities and although they are of an age when they are mainly wanting to make their own choices, they have enjoyed a variety of options, such as holidays, a trip to a behind-the-scenes tour of Liverpool Football Club, more regular trips to local football matches, cinema and playing football with staff. Staff have been creative in activities that are offered to young people and have kept a detailed picture album of special memories for the young people to keep and treasure.

The behaviour of young people has improved significantly, allowing the home to operate with more relaxed staffing ratios. For example, staff say that one young person is listening more and does not get so upset over trivial issues. There is a reported decrease in angry outbursts and young people can regulate their behaviour more quickly with support. The use of physical intervention is rare and those that do occur are low level and generally involve a simple guide away from a situation.

The home works well with parents and relatives, offering them support and guidance in their role and encouraging and acknowledging the importance of positive contact between families and young people. Independent monitoring of the home identifies areas for improvement and informs the management team of ways to improve the service. In addition, the registered manager has completed a review of the home, which shows a good understanding of service provision and what needs to improve.

The registered manager is able to assess the strengths of this home as well as the weaknesses. A particular strength is the skilled, stable and competent staff team. Most have reached at least diploma level 3 in caring for children and young people, and others have enrolled to complete the qualification. Staff are very experienced and are able to

provide a high level of care to young people.

The home has continued to improve since the last inspection. Young people confirm that the standard of care is good and that they feel safe. There are no requirements or recommendations made as a result of this visit

### Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
03/05/2017	Full	Good

### Information about this inspection

Inspectors have looked closely at the experiences and progress of children and young people. Inspectors considered the quality of work and the differences made to the lives of children and young people. They watched how professional staff work with children and young people and each other and discussed the effectiveness of help and care provided. Wherever possible, they talked to children and 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 whom 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.

Using the 'Social care common inspection framework', this inspection was carried out under the Care Standards Act 2000 to assess the effectiveness of the service, how it meets the core functions of the service as set out in legislation, 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'.

## Children's home details

**Unique reference number:** 1240844

**Provision sub-type:** children's home

**Registered provider:** Care 4 Children Holdco Limited

**Registered provider address:** Care 4 Children, 1 Stuart Road, Bredbury Park Industrial Estate, Bredbury, Stockport SK6 2SR

**Responsible individual:** Dominic Tumelty

**Registered manager:** Jane Wright

## Inspector

Elaine Clare, social care inspector

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