

SC033362

Registered provider: Peterborough City Council

Interim inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

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 16 young people who are aged between 10 and 17 years. It provides for young people accommodated under section 25 of the Children Act 1989 and who are placed by local authorities.

Admission of any young person under section 25 of the Children Act 1989 who is under 13 years of age requires the approval of the Secretary of State.

The commissioning of health services at this home is the statutory responsibility of NHS England under the Health and Social Care Act 2012.

Education is provided on site in dedicated facilities.

Inspection date: 30 January 2019

Judgement at last inspection: requires improvement to be good

Date of last inspection: 22 May 2018

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 requires improvement to be good at the last full inspection.

At the interim inspection, Ofsted judges that it has improved effectiveness.

At the last inspection in May 2018, Ofsted made eight requirements and eight recommendations. Three recommendations relate to shortfalls in education. Ofsted will

consider the progress in addressing these at the next inspection. The registered manager has taken appropriate action to address the remaining shortfalls.

Staff use support programmes, bespoke interventions and measures of control to help children to manage their own behaviours and keep themselves safe. These measures include physical restraint, managing-away and single-separation regimes, searching children's rooms and possessions and the use of incentives, rewards and sanctions. The registered manager now uses a range of audit tools to make sure that staff include all necessary information in these records. For example, case managers now scrutinise these records before signing them off and return incomplete records to staff. Consequently, the registered manager is now able to assess the suitability, lawfulness and effectiveness of any measure of control. This better promotes children's safety and welfare.

Children's behaviours often place them and others at significant risk of harm. In these circumstances, staff may use short-term managing-away and single-separation programmes. This approach enables staff to closely monitor and observe children to keep them safe. Since the last inspection, the registered manager has acted to make sure that these programmes reflect children's individual needs. Records relating to this practice now include the rationale for separating children from their peers. Staff summarise how long this separation is likely to continue, the steps taken to reintegrate children back into the group and the conversations with managers to authorise the use of this practice. This level of scrutiny and accountability means that managers and staff are more consistent in the use of these programmes. As a result, the registered manager can evaluate the impact that these programmes have on managing and reducing children's risks and challenging behaviours.

Staff continue to work with children to address issues of bullying. Children said that staff quickly challenge this behaviour and help them to understand the impact that it has on others. Managers now ensure that staff record all incidents of bullying. This helps the registered manager to identify any patterns or themes and to make sure that responses to this behaviour are appropriate and protect children from harm.

Children benefit from regular one-to-one key-work sessions. These sessions help the children to reflect on their behaviours and take responsibility for their actions. Staff use incentives, rewards and sanctions to promote positive behaviours. They now ensure that sanctions are restorative in nature. This encourages children to consider the impact that their actions may have on others.

Since the last inspection, staff have taken steps to ensure that children have access to a range of stimulating activities. These planned events take account of children's suggestions, interests and hobbies. Consequently, children grow in confidence and self-esteem as they develop new skills.

Staff continue to work with children to address their concerns regarding food. Menus are now more varied and take account of children's suggestions and preferences. Children said that the food options have improved since the last inspection.

The registered manager oversees the recruitment of all staff. Vetting and employment checks are now in place. This means that managers can verify the suitability and safety of staff to work with children.

Staff now receive regular, practice-related formal supervision. The introduction of a reflective agenda supports staff to review their practice and consider their own learning and development. The registered manager now ensures that staff have access to training that reflects children’s individual needs. As a result, staff develop and enhance their knowledge and skills to support children’s progress.

Senior managers now monitor all general repairs and maintenance work at the home. Consequently, any graffiti is quickly removed and all identified hazards are immediately repaired. This means that children live in a safe and well-presented environment.

The registered manager has introduced a wide range of monitoring tools. These support her to review the service, to identify and track patterns and trends and to act to address any shortfalls. Consequently, the registered manager can evaluate the quality of care provided by the service and consider the impact of this on children’s progress. The independent visitor supports the evaluation of the service by undertaking regular visits to the home. However, there are significant delays in these reports being sent to Ofsted as required.

Senior managers now recognise the strengths of the service and the areas for development. They develop action plans to address shortfalls. This means that the service has evolved to meet children’s changing needs and risks. Children’s day-to-day experiences are better because of these improvements.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
22/05/2018	Full	Requires improvement to be good
16/01/2018	Interim	Sustained effectiveness
18/07/2017	Full	Good
24/01/2017	Interim	Sustained effectiveness

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

Statutory requirements

This section sets out the actions that the registered person(s) must take to meet 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 within the given timescales.

Requirement	Due date
<p>The independent person must provide a copy of the independent person's report to HMCI. (Regulation 44 (7)(a))</p> <p>In particular, ensure that reports are provided in a timely manner.</p>	<p>31/03/2019</p>

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 difference 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: SC033362

Provision sub-type: Secure unit

Registered provider address: Peterborough City Council, Chief Executive, Town Hall, Bridge Street, Peterborough PE1 1PJ

Responsible individual: Wendi Ogle-Welbourn

Registered manager: Jeannette Winson

Inspectors

Jo Stephenson, social care inspector

Debbie Foster, social care inspector

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