

SC033457

Registered provider: Leeds 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. It is approved by the Department for Education to restrict children's and young people's liberty. The children's home can accommodate up to 24 children or young people who are aged between 10 and 17 years.

It provides for up to 16 children or young people placed by the Youth Custody Service and eight children or young people accommodated under section 25 of the Children Act 1989 and who are placed by local authorities. Admission of any child under 13 years of age under section 25 of the Children Act 1989 requires the approval of the Secretary of State.

The commissioning of health services in 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.

The manager has been registered with Ofsted since 2007.

Inspection date: 24 April 2019

Judgement at last inspection: sustained effectiveness

Date of last inspection: 30 October 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 outstanding at the last full inspection. At the interim inspection, Ofsted judges that it has sustained effectiveness.

Innovative and research-led practice is at the forefront of developments in the home.

Most of the staff have completed or are in the process of completing training in 'Secure Stairs', a whole-system approach to integrated care. Staff are becoming more psychologically informed as the model becomes embedded in their approach to the care of young people. A staff member said: 'The training was excellent. I now don't focus on the young people's challenging behaviour and understand the trauma related to their behaviour. We have fantastic support from the therapy team.'

Transitions into and from the home are very well managed. However, on one occasion, the manager failed to ensure that a young person's address immediately before being accommodated in the home was duly recorded. This was an administrative omission and did not have a direct impact on the young person.

The staff team is dedicated to helping young people to realise that, whatever difficulties they experience, it will support them to make progress. Gradually, the young people believe that they can achieve. Through the trust that they build with the staff, who enthusiastically respond to their individual needs, young people flourish and make significant progress. For example, young people are enrolled in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme. One young person has achieved his gold award and was invited to attend an awards ceremony at Buckingham Palace.

Young people contribute to their individualised care planning so that they understand their own goals and can review their progress. When appropriate, and in line with individual plans, young people enjoy increasing, but rigorously planned, escorted and independent time in the community. This helps young people to understand the expectations and responsibilities invested in them, to help develop their social skills safely. A young person commented: 'I've been out on mobility and it was just a short one, which suited me, but next time I'm planned to be out for longer.'

Young people's placement plans provide a comprehensive picture of their personal needs and the support that they require. Staff put young people's plans into practice effectively to ensure that they meet young people's specific needs on a day-to-day basis. Care planning and staff's practice recognise young people as individuals with different needs, backgrounds, interests and views.

The management team carefully plans and analyses young people's progress with the care staff and the clinical psychologist attached to the home. In addition to regular team meetings, multi-disciplinary team meetings provide oversight and guidance to young people's progression.

Incidents that involve the use of physical restraint do occur and are managed in line with regulations. 'Single separation' and 'managing away' are appropriately used when young people are presenting a risk to themselves or others. Detailed records are kept and these records confirm that staff maintain appropriate levels of supervision and make every effort to reintegrate the young person back into the group. All incidents are thoroughly monitored by the management team.

Feedback from professionals is extremely positive about the standard of care, the level

of communication from the home and the resulting positive outcomes for young people. One social worker remarked that: '[Name of young person] has progressed amazingly. She has been equipped with emotional stability, which has enabled her to manage her feelings without resorting to self-harm.' An independent reviewing officer spoke of how the home has worked 'consistently with [name of young person] and they saw beyond the offence and saw the child'.

Since the last inspection, one recommendation has been met. Young people's complaints are now rigorously responded to by the management team. Young people confirmed that they knew how to make a complaint and were confident that their complaints were replied to by the management team. A young person said: 'I know if I made a complaint the managers would be all over it and sort it.'

The managers provide clear and highly effective leadership. They lead a caring, passionate, very experienced and talented staff team. Together, the manager and staff have created an extremely positive and aspirational culture that is improving the lives of young people. Monitoring is exemplary. This provides excellent, detailed oversight, monitoring and measuring of achievements. An independent visitor acts as a critical friend, identifying the pertinent issues and helping to drive improvements.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
30/10/2018	Interim	Sustained effectiveness
01/05/2018	Full	Outstanding
24/10/2017	Interim	Declined in effectiveness
09/05/2017	Full	Outstanding

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

Recommendations

- In addition to the records required through Regulations 37, 38 and 39 in the Children's Homes Regulations 2015, Regulation 17 of the 1991 Regulations requires each person, organisation or local authority responsible for the management of the secure children's home to keep records giving details of: the child's address immediately before being accommodated in the home. ('Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards', page 80, paragraph 1.46)

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: SC033457

Provision sub-type: Secure unit

Registered provider: Leeds City Council

Registered provider address: Merion House, 7th Floor West, Merrion Centre, Leeds LS2 8TU

Responsible individual: Stephen Walker

Registered manager: Francis N'Jie

Inspectors

Elaine Allison: social care inspector

Debbie Foster: social care inspector

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