

# SC040500

Registered provider: Salford 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 27 children and young people who are aged between 10 and 18 years.

All places available at this children's home are commissioned on a contractual basis by the Youth Custody Service. The Youth Custody Service may, under certain circumstances, permit local authority children's services to spot purchase a vacant bed at the children's home to enable a local authority to place a child or young person under section 25 of the Children Act 1989. The admission of any child who is 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 experienced and skilled manager is suitably qualified and has been registered with Ofsted for this children's home since July 2007.

**Inspection date:** 21 May 2019

**Judgement at last inspection:** sustained effectiveness

**Date of last inspection:** 8 January 2019

**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.

At the last interim inspection of the home in January 2018, one requirement and three recommendations were raised. The statutory requirement has been met. One recommendation that relates to records has been reinstated and an additional recommendation raised. The two previous recommendations relating to the provision and delivery of education services and health will be assessed at the next full inspection of the home.

Since the last inspection, staff now receive regular, practice-related formal supervision. The introduction of learning journals, probation reviews and clinical supervision supports staff to review their practice. A comprehensive training programme ensures that staff have access to training that reflects children's individual and changing needs. As a result, staff are provided with excellent opportunities to develop and enhance their knowledge and skills.

Children receive good-quality care from care staff who have the skills and ability to form strong, meaningful and positive relationships. This enables the children to swiftly establish trust and work constructively with the staff.

The monitoring of children's progress and the quality of care provided is thorough. New quality assurance systems have been introduced; these provide valuable data for leaders and managers to monitor and track any emerging patterns and trends. Reviewing and promoting children's progress are prioritised. Children's experiences and opportunities are integral to the operation of the home.

Physical restraint is used in line with regulations and its use remains low. Records reviewed by inspectors demonstrated that the criteria for using physical intervention had been met. Leaders and managers regularly review and monitor incidents that result in the use of physical intervention. This monitoring includes reviewing closed-circuit television. Despite this, they have not identified, or rectified, omissions in some records. Records do not always detail the type of intervention used and by whom. In addition, not all reported incidents have been evaluated for effectiveness. The lack of specific detail limits senior managers' ability to fully assess the necessity for the use of restraint or the suitability of the holds used.

Leaders and managers maintain excellent working relationships with all professionals and agencies who work with the young people. Transition planning and mobility opportunities for the children are excellent, and are set at a pace that children can cope with. These opportunities, as well as having access to the 'step down' home, which is a safe but less restricted environment, are excellent. This means that children are well prepared for their next move, whether this is to another secure provision or to the community. For many children, leaving the home is a positive experience because they are well equipped and prepared for the next phase in their life.

The views and experiences of children are given a high priority. Since the last inspection, there has been a significant emphasis on helping children understand why they are at the home and why boundaries, rules and expectations are in place. Since living at the home, children are now more able to recognise how they feel and to understand the impact that their behaviour has on themselves and others. Children can identify the progress they have made. One child said, 'I attend school and actually enjoy it. I didn't attend school on the outside. Going to school and getting qualifications wasn't important to me then, but they are now.'

Children are provided with good opportunities to develop their independence skills through learning and recreational play. The all-encompassing independent living skills programme and after-school activity programme provide children with the opportunity to explore new interests, develop skills and maintain talents. Children say they really enjoy learning and look forward to the activities offered. Children have personal aspirations, and those spoken to could identify a career of their choice. This means that children develop meaningful life skills and gain qualifications that are helpful for their transition into adulthood.

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. In the main, sanctions are restorative in nature. This encourages children to consider the impact that their actions may have on themselves and others.

Children are regularly consulted on how they can improve and personalise their living environment. Despite this, not all children's bedrooms are as well maintained as others. Some children's rooms lack the personalised care and attention the communal areas are afforded. This is because staff have not ensured that bedroom curtains are securely attached and that graffiti is removed, and sticky pads that obscure mirrors and have not been removed from walls look unsightly. This detracts from what is in the main a warm, homely, welcoming environment

## Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
08/01/2019	Interim	Sustained effectiveness
22/05/2018	Full	Outstanding
23/01/2018	Interim	Sustained effectiveness
11/07/2017	Full	Outstanding

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

### **Recommendations**

- The ethos of the home should support each child to learn. ('Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards', page 28, paragraph 5.18) In particular, better support young people to progress their education and career plans when they leave the home by enabling them to work towards accredited qualifications in all the subjects where this is possible.
- Ensure that health services are delivered in locations which are safe, fit for purpose and have the necessary facilities to meet young people's needs. ('Health care standards for children and young people in secure settings', page 34, paragraph 8.1) In particular, give urgent consideration to relocating the treatment room to a space that is more suitable to better meet the needs of children and young people.
- Staff should be familiar with the home's policies on record keeping and understand the importance of careful, objective, and clear recording. Information about the child must always be recorded in a way that will be helpful to the child. ('Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards', page 62, paragraph 14.4) In particular, ensure that restraint records are clear, concise and factually accurate.
- Ensure that all areas provide a homely and domestic environment. ('Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards', page 15, paragraph 3.9) In particular, ensure that children's bedrooms are maintained to a good standard. This includes ensuring curtains are hung correctly and graffiti and unsightly wall fixings removed.

### **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:** SC040500

**Provision sub-type:** Secure Unit

**Registered provider address:** Civic Centre, Chorley Road, Swinton, Manchester M27 5DA

**Responsible individual:** Michael Kelly

**Registered manager:** Michael Lowry MBE.

## Inspectors

Sharron Escott, social care inspector

Debbie Foster, social care inspector

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