

SC040500

Registered provider: Salford City Council

Interim inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This secure home is operated by a local authority and is approved by the Secretary of State to restrict young people's liberty. The home accommodates up to 27 children aged between 10 and 18 years.

All places available at this 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 home to enable a local authority to place a child under section 25 of the Children Act 1989. The admission of any child aged under 13 years 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 since July 2007.

Due to COVID-19 (coronavirus), at the request of the Secretary of State, we suspended all routine inspections of social care providers on 17 March 2020.

We last visited this home on 12 to 21 January 2021 to carry out an assurance visit. The report is published on the Ofsted website.

Inspection date: 3 August 2021

Date of last inspection: 7 January 2020

Judgement at last inspection: outstanding

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.

Managers and staff have worked hard to overcome the challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic. New ways of working have been adopted to ensure that care is delivered in a way that recognises and responds to each child's needs. When change has been necessary, it has been implemented in a way that minimises the impact on children.

Managers provide strong leadership and consistently prioritise the children's needs. Staff are overwhelmingly positive about working at the home. It is fair to say that staffing has presented as a major challenge during the pandemic, and it is testament to the whole team that, for a large majority of the time, high standards of care have been maintained.

Relationships between children and staff are exceptionally positive. Children speak affectionately about staff and say that they feel genuinely cared for and cared about. One child told inspectors that they feel 'lucky' to live in the home when comparing it to less-positive experiences of another secure setting.

Children are given a warm welcome when they first arrive at the home. Staff make every effort to reduce the anxieties and fears that the child may be feeling. The initial period of isolation, which is a precautionary measure, is used effectively to cultivate positive relationships, complete a range of assessments, and gather information from parents and professionals.

Care planning is based on the principles of assessment, planning and review. This concept is embraced by the care, education and health staff, who take a whole-centre approach to caring for children. All team members work together and are effective in implementing individually tailored support plans and interventions. The effectiveness of this approach is evident in the progress that children make, including improved health, engagement in education and emotional regulation. A professional said, '[Name of child] has thrived since he came to this home, a total contrast to where he was previously. Staff get him on an individual level and he always seems happy and content when I visit.'

Children can engage in a wide range of enrichment activities. They are encouraged to play games and participate in activities that promote their long-term health, such as team sports or going to the gym. For some children, this is the first time that they have had the opportunity to play like children. One child spoke excitedly about playing a classic board game for the first time. Another child showed the joy they

experienced when they handled reptiles, rodents and other animals for the first time.

Children's risks and behaviours are reviewed weekly as part of the risk management forum. Using a simple but effective tool, called a 'red safety plan', information is shared with staff, who demonstrate a good understanding of each child's behaviours, risks and vulnerabilities. This ensures that children receive the right level of support to help manage their risk-taking behaviour and keep them safe.

Consistently applied boundaries and expectations mean that children quickly establish a positive routine. Staff use restorative approaches to manage group dynamics and challenging behaviour. They are committed to helping children to develop positive coping skills and self-regulation. Every effort is made to avoid using single separation, managing away or restraint. When any of these interventions are used, it is as a last resort and because it is the only way to keep the child and others safe.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
07/01/2020	Full	Outstanding
21/05/2019	Interim	Sustained effectiveness
08/01/2019	Interim	Sustained effectiveness
22/05/2018	Full	Outstanding

Information about this inspection

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.

Inspectors have looked closely at the experiences and progress of children and young people, 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: Salford City Council

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

Responsible individual: Michael Kelly

Registered manager: Michael Lowry MBE

Inspectors

Paul Scott, Social Care Inspector

Lisa Summers, Social Care Inspector

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Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

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