

SC033457

Registered provider: Leeds City Council

Interim inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this secure children's home

This secure children's home is operated by a local authority. The home is approved by the Department for Education to restrict children's liberty.

The children's home can accommodate up to 24 children who are aged between 10 and 17 years old. It provides for up to 14 children placed by the Youth Custody Service and 10 children 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.

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.

Inspection date: 6 October 2021

Date of last inspection: 11 May 2021

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 this interim inspection, Ofsted judged that it has sustained effectiveness.

Children benefit from consistent, supportive care provided by a team of staff who are sensitive to their needs. Interactions between the children and staff are warm and good-humoured. Staff support the children skilfully and with insight into their individual behaviours and needs.

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has been managed very well. Children have been very well supported through their initial periods of isolation and have continued to receive consistent, stable care throughout this challenging time. Consequently, children have been able to make significant developmental progress.

At the last inspection, a recommendation was made in relation to ensuring that checks on children when they were in their bedrooms were carried out in line with the times detailed in their risk assessments. This has been addressed. Samples of records and CCTV viewed show that staff carry out the checks conscientiously and effectively to ensure that children are safe when they are in their rooms.

Another recommendation made at the last inspection has not been fully addressed. This is in relation to ensuring that records of supervision are of a consistently high standard and records of conversations about practice matters are more detailed. Managers identified this shortfall and provided training to staff who carry out supervision. However, this necessary improvement is not yet embedded in practice. The recommendation is repeated.

On one occasion, a significant event was not reported to Ofsted in a timely manner. Although the event is still the subject of an internal review, it was of a serious enough nature to warrant sharing promptly after the incident. This prevented Ofsted from assessing the suitability of the response to the incident.

Any safeguarding concerns are shared appropriately with relevant agencies. This ensures that action plans can be put in place and children's well-being and safety are protected and promoted.

There is close working with other professionals, such as psychologists, therapists and teaching staff. This means that bespoke strategies are in place to support children to move forward. This has been particularly impressive when helping children to move to other homes. The expertise and insight gained from these professionals are used to develop the plans and approaches which are then delivered in practice. This gives children a sound, stable basis to move on positively

and to implement their newly learned strategies and coping skills when they leave the home.

Managers and staff advocate strongly on behalf of the children. This is a significant strength of this service. In particular, managers are tireless and determined in ensuring that responsible authorities arrange transition plans in children's best interests. During these times, the staff and managers have managed children's anxieties and vulnerabilities. This approach underpins the strength and trust of the relationships that children have with staff which have been developed during their placement.

A sample of incidents involving the use of physical restraint was viewed on CCTV and the corresponding records were examined. On all occasions, the use of physical restraint was appropriate and proportionate, and the children were kept safe. Briefings held with the children and staff after the event ensure that everyone's views were taken into account and that the children feel that all incidents are handled safely and fairly.

If single separation is used, records show that the use of this measure of control is always checked and endorsed by managers. This restriction is only used for the shortest time possible to protect all children, their peers and staff from harm.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
11/05/2021	Full	Outstanding
07/01/2020	Full	Good
24/04/2019	Interim	Sustained effectiveness
30/10/2018	Interim	Sustained effectiveness

What does the secure 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 registered person must notify HMCI and each other relevant person without delay if—</p> <p>there is an incident relating to a child which the registered person considers to be serious. (Regulation 40 (4)(a)(b)(c)(d)(i)(ii)(e))</p>	<p>30 November 2021</p>

Recommendation

- The registered person must ensure that a record of supervision is kept for staff, including the manager. The record should provide evidence that supervision is being delivered in line with regulation 33 (4)(b). In particular, ensure that supervision records are sufficiently detailed and accurate. (‘Guide to the children’s homes regulations including the quality standards’, page 61, paragraph 13.3)

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: SC033457

Provision sub-type: Secure unit

Registered provider address: Leeds City Council

Registered provider address: Civic Hall, Calverley Street, Leeds LS1 1UR

Responsible individual: Joel Hanna

Registered manager: Francis N'Jie

Inspectors

Paul Taylor, Social Care Inspector
Cath Sikakana, Social Care Inspector

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, further education and skills, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for children looked after, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 1231, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

You may reuse this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, visit www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence, write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk.

This publication is available at <http://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/>.

Interested in our work? You can subscribe to our monthly newsletter for more information and updates: <http://eepurl.com/iTrDn>.

Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 1231
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.gov.uk/ofsted

© Crown copyright 2021