

Children's homes – Interim inspection

Inspection date	02/03/2017
Unique reference number	SC020576
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home
Registered provider	Castle Homes Care Ltd
Registered provider address	80 Hammersmith Road, London W14 8UD

Responsible individual	Shelley Whiting
Registered manager	Deborah Bassett
Inspector	Andrew Hewston

Inspection date	02/03/2017
Previous inspection judgement	Good
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 good at the full inspection. At this interim inspection, Ofsted judges that it has sustained effectiveness. Young people continue to receive a good level of care. All members of staff are aware of how to meet the young people's needs through detailed and well-considered placement plans. All young people talk encouragingly about individual staff members and each other. Three young people have moved from the home since the last inspection, and two have moved in. Transitions are planned, including regular visits to new placements and increased contact arrangements in place to support the move. One young person who is planning to move on from the home told the inspector, 'I think that the staff have helped me a lot with getting ready to move out. They have helped me to learn new skills with being more independent.' No requirements or recommendations were raised at the last inspection. The manager uses an improvement plan. This includes the development of staff members' skills in areas such as key working and recording. Reports from the monthly independent visitors are sufficiently detailed to support improvements, and assess the staff's abilities to offer a safe service. Improvements to practice are highlighted and responded to swiftly by the staff team. Young people are kept safe in the home, with assessments in place to respond to different risks presented. However, one assessment does not sufficiently describe the actual risk and instead takes a stringent response to concerns relating to missing behaviours. This is at odds with the risks presented by other young people and how staff respond to situations when other young people go missing from care. This stringent approach has the potential to lead members of staff to become overly restrictive in the way that they respond to a young person's attempts to leave the home. Behaviour management records clearly show the reasons for restraints and sanctions and are monitored well by the management team. Concerns relating to self-harming behaviours are responded to well. A recent notification regarding this behaviour shows that staff have a good knowledge of	

young people and the need for increased vigilance when concerns arise.

The staff work well with a range of professionals involved with supporting the young people. A youth offending team member praised the staff team, especially the deputy manager, for the regular updates, and effective discussions when they visit the home. Contact arrangements with young people's families form a part of the placement plans and are facilitated well by the staff team.

Information about this children's home

The home is part of a large private organisation. It offers care for up to five young people, primarily who have emotional and/or behavioural difficulties.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
12/10/2016	Full	Good
11/02/2016	Interim	Improved effectiveness
24/09/2015	Full	Good
25/03/2015	Interim	Improved effectiveness

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

Statutory requirements

This section sets out the actions which must be taken so that the registered person/s meets 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
12: The protection of children standard In order to meet the protection of children standard, the registered person must ensure that staff — (2)(a)(i) assess whether each child is at risk of harm, taking into account information in the child's relevant plans, and, if necessary, make arrangements to reduce the risk of any harm to the child.	31/03/2017

What the inspection judgements mean

At the interim inspection, we make a judgement on whether the home has improved in effectiveness, sustained effectiveness, or declined in effectiveness since the previous full inspection. This is in line with the 'Inspection of children's homes: framework for inspection'.

Information about this inspection

Inspectors have looked closely at the experiences and progress of children and young people living in the children's home. Inspectors considered the quality of work and the difference that adults make to the lives of children and young people. They read case files, watched how professional staff work with children, young people and each other and discussed the effectiveness of help and care given to children and young people. Wherever possible, they talked to children, 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 who 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.

This inspection was carried out under the Care Standards Act 2000 to assess the effectiveness of the service 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'.

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