

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC023636
Inspector	Melissa McMillan
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Registered person	Childhood First
Registered person address	Childhood First 210 Borough High Street LONDON SE1 1JX
Responsible individual	Stephen Blunden
Registered manager	Gary John Yexley
Date of last inspection	04/08/2014

Inspection date	11/02/2015
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Previous inspection	good
Enforcement action since last inspection	none

This inspection

This home was judged good at the last full inspection. At this interim inspection Ofsted judge that it has **sustained effectiveness**.

Children have made significant progress in their social and emotional development. The consistent and therapeutic approach used by staff enables children to develop relationships with adults based on trust and mutual respect. Children feel safe as a result of the affectionate and nurturing relationships with staff. This encourages them to discuss past experiences and engage in support. Staff provide sensitive but firm boundaries which assist children to learn appropriate affection and form appropriate relationships with peers.

Children pursue their hobbies and interests; this includes swimming, rollerblading and riding their bikes. Through these activities children develop friendships, have new experiences and develop their skills in a range of different areas. Staff use life story work with some children in preparation for their moving on from the home. Children who leave the home are well prepared through transition visits supported by the staff. This ensures children are fully informed and play an active part in planning for their move. Children who leave the home do so in a planned way.

Staff work effectively with a wide range of external professionals including health, education and placing social workers to ensure children receive effective support to meet their needs. Children attend regular therapy sessions within the home. This ensures a holistic approach is achieved in addressing both their physical and psychological needs. Staff facilitate children's contact with their relatives which enables them to maintain relationships with those they consider important to them

Placement plans are highly individualised and are written from the child's perspective. They are comprehensive and provide detailed guidance to staff on how to care for children in a personalised way. A daily log is kept for each child; the daily entries describe the child's activities but also focus on the child's mood and behaviour. This allows staff to monitor and identify patterns in behaviour, and take

action to provide appropriate and effective support. Risk assessments and behavioural plans are thorough. This encourages staff to be proactive in the care of children and ensures children are cared for in a safe way.

Children are supported to manage difficult feelings. Staff take time to explain and reassure children when they become anxious. The trusting relationship between children and staff mean children are more accepting of support in assisting them to calm down. Staff members' consistent and nurturing approach has resulted in some children being able to control their feelings and behaviours and not having to be held. Restraint records are comprehensive. This enables the Registered Manager to monitor and identify any trends and patterns in the child's behaviour or responses from staff. Meetings take place to reflect on and analyse each event of physical intervention. This ensures strategies used by staff to support children are reviewed and improved and remain responsive to the child's current circumstances.

Children take part in regular emergency evacuation drills to ensure they know what to do in case of fire. A recent external fire safety audit identified areas for improvement which have been acted upon, such as replacing all the fire doors. As a result, fire safety arrangements within the home are good.

Since the previous inspection, children now have access to a book entitled 'I want you to know' which provide details on ChildLine, Ofsted, the independent visitor service, and how to access advocacy or make a complaint. This information allows children to exercise their rights and seek help from outside of the home.

The previous inspection report recommended that written consents are obtained from placing local authorities for the use of door alarms on children's bedrooms. However, this has not been achieved for all children. The Registered Manager is taking steps to source training in e-safety and child exploitation as recommended in the previous inspection report but has so far been unsuccessful. This training would further enhance safeguarding practice within the home and promote the safety and welfare of all children residing there.

Information about this children's home

The home is registered to provide care and accommodation for 10 children who have emotional and behavioural difficulties. It is operated by a charitable organisation.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
04/08/2014	Full	good
29/01/2014	Interim	satisfactory progress
18/09/2013	Full	outstanding
18/03/2013	Interim	good progress

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

Recommendations

To improve the quality and standards of care further the service should take account of the following recommendation(s):

- ensure consent from a person with parental responsibility is clearly documented on each child's file. This specifically relates to the use of bedroom door alarms (Volume 5, Statutory Guidance, para 2.110)
- provide further training that keeps staff up to date with professional, legal and practice developments; specifically around e safety and child sexual exploitation. (NMS 18.1)

What inspection judgements mean

At the interim inspections 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

The purpose of this inspection is to assure children and young people, parents, the public, local authorities and government of the quality and standard of the service provided. The 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 relevant regulations and meets the national minimum standards.

The report details the main strengths, any areas for improvement, including any breaches of regulation, and any failure to meet national minimum standards. The judgements included in the report are made against the framework of inspection for children's homes.