

Children's homes - interim inspection

Inspection date	29/12/2015
Unique reference number	SC023636
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 Yexley
Inspector	Liz Driver

Inspection date	29/12/2015
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 judge that it has Improved effectiveness. At the full welfare inspection carried out in June 2015 two requirements were made. The Registered Manager has addressed both requirements to a good standard. Improved procedures to manage medication errors have been put in place with visibly clear protocols for staff to access. In addition, staff have received training on how to manage medication errors. Although no medication errors have occurred staff are well informed of procedures to take if necessary. Staff have also received training on equality and diversity that has provided them with improved understanding, this compliments the ethos of the home. Since the last inspection three children have successfully moved on and two new children have arrived. All transitions are carefully planned with a multi-agency approach working effectively to ensure good outcomes. New children have settled in quickly and are making very good progress. This is a service that continues to be extremely well informed of the Quality Standards and their impact on daily practices and in meeting the children's homes regulations. This can be seen in the service's development plan and the mid-term review the Registered Manager has undertaken to assess how well they are meeting their objectives. Previously, the Registered Manager was managing two homes located next to each other. However, since the last inspection he now only manages this home. This has enabled him to focus on this service. He is also near to completing his leadership and management qualification. His impact on the service is positive and effective. He has a wealth of knowledge and experience in the therapeutic field and management. The assistant manager provides effective support to the Registered Manager. They work well together as a leadership team. Staff morale is good. Children continue to make very good progress with their educational, social and emotional lives. High levels of support and excellent communication between the off-site school and residential staff allows children to feel staff know them well, that staff really do care about them and helps them feel safe. As a result they	

make very good progress. School attendance is very good. Children have received awards for their improved attendance from their placing authorities which they are proud of.

The service continues to meet the needs of the children accommodated. The well planned referral procedures have been further developed to ensure placing authorities and children have up to date and detailed information of what the service can provide. Expectations in relation to children's behaviour, educational attendance, engaging in the community and therapeutic living are also clearly stated.

Currently there is one girl and six boys accommodated at the home. Careful consideration has been given to this situation around placement planning including risk assessments for the location of her bedroom, bedtime routines, washing facilities and night time staffing. She appears happy at the home and has made very good progress in the time she has been there. The staff are managing this situation very well with no reported concerns. The high staffing levels ensure all children receive one to one care, time and supervision.

The Registered Manager works closely with other leaders in the organisation to ensure robust monitoring; auditing of the service continues to be effective and inform future development plans. As a result a number of developments have taken place. These include changes to the staff team through career development channels, further developing the effectiveness of data analysis and gaining increased feedback from parents and children. Developments directly related to children include; improved school attendance taking their starting points into account and a decrease in the number of physical interventions. Considering the number, age and gender mix of the children accommodated there has been a very low number of notifiable incidents.

Safeguarding procedures continue to be of a very high standard. The Registered Manager has recently undertaken advanced safeguarding and child protection training. He ensures his staff team are also suitably trained and up to date with the risks posed to children. Training delivered since the last inspection includes; Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), e-safety and Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE). In turn staff are very capable and extremely well informed of how to identify risks and refer to the correct agency. This ensures maximum protection for children.

Staff have an awareness of their PREVENT duty in relation to radicalisation and extremism, with training planned in the near future. This is on the agenda at each staff meeting. The safeguarding policy is currently being reviewed to include FGM, CSE and PREVENT.

Relationships with local authorities are good, with regular communication between the home and social workers. Individual key workers are instrumental in reporting to social workers and do so effectively. Staff also communicate well with other professionals involved in children's lives. For example, the local general

practitioner, dentist, optician and orthodontist. This results in a better experience for the children when they need to use these services. The Registered Manager is currently liaising with NHS dieticians and nutritionists to provide a service in house. This will include reviewing food menus and individual food diaries and staff training.

The charity that runs this service has gained accreditation by the UK Council for Psychotherapy (UKCP) and as a result can offer staff training in therapeutic practices so they qualify as therapeutic counsellors. Investments in the clinical side of the charity and restructuring of the clinicians and consultants has seen improvements such as improved access to professionals on site rather than waiting for appointments through external referrals.

The service benefits from having an experienced and skilled Registered Manager and continues to operate at a high standard. Children make very good progress whilst living at the home. They are happy here and enjoy time spent with staff. Staff and children are positive and the house, although busy, presents as a comforting family environment.

Information about this children's home

The home is registered to accommodate up to 10 children of mixed gender aged 5 to 10 years old. They transition on at the age of 14 years old. The home specialises in the treatment of children who present with severe emotional and behavioural problems. The home is a specialist residential therapeutic community providing care and treatment to psychologically traumatised children. It is operated by a charitable organisation.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
22/07/2015	Full	Good
11/02/2015	Interim	Sustained effectiveness
04/08/2014	Full	Good
29/01/2014	Interim	Satisfactory progress
18/09/2013	Full	Outstanding
18/03/2013	Interim	Good progress
20/06/2012	Full	Outstanding

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 with the given timescales.

Requirement	Due date
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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 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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