

Children's homes - interim inspection

Inspection date	12/01/2016
Unique reference number	SC025940
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home
Registered person	Barnardo's
Registered person address	Barnardos, Head Office, Tanners Lane, Barkingside, ILFORD, Essex, IG6 1QG

Responsible individual	Suzanne Turner-Jones
Registered manager	Lucellta Wallace-Esnard
Inspector	Lee Kirwin

Inspection date	12/01/2016
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 sustained effectiveness. The young people currently living in the home are making exceptional progress in all areas. One young person continues to develop confidence and self-care skills and his parent feel he is now more independent, learning how to make choices and develop important life skills. He enjoys school and has excellent attendance. Another young person has made rapid progress since she came to stay in the home. Her parent stated that her child is making more progress than she imagined possible. Parents comment positively on the way staff develop caring relationships with children and help them to feel good about themselves. They also report that managers in the home are responsive to any concerns that they have. Managers work hard to make sure parents are involved in decisions, which effect the care of their children. The Registered Manager of the home works effectively to advocate for children when working with partner agencies. She uses her knowledge and experience to make sure that plans are realistic and achievable. This was particularly evident when the home advocated for an effective, stepped transition to help a young person return to education. The young person is now able to engage positively with school and sustain progress. Young people enjoy living in the home. They appreciate the high quality, homely physical environment and the emotional warmth demonstrated by staff. They have a sense of belonging in the home and understand that staff have their best interests at heart. This means that staff are able to provide firm boundaries but still be flexible and responsive to each young person's feelings. This helps young people develop a clear sense of responsibility and make positive choices about how they behave. Young people are safe. They have healthy routines, keep safe in the community and do not go absent without permission. They engage in a range of positive activities and appreciate this. One young person said that 'we go out a lot which keeps everyone busy and happy – the staff are very nice to the young people'.	

Staff are alert to any signs of bullying and act effectively in partnership with schools to keep children safe from harm. They provide clear boundaries around the use of social media and the internet to promote education and safety.

Staff act as a good parent would, and offer genuine care to young people. Practice is underpinned by social pedagogy approaches that seek to help children learn from day to day activities. This means that children are encouraged to help around the home and as a result, learn useful life skills.

Staff use expert knowledge from child and adolescent health professionals to inform their interventions. They are creative and deliver individualised care, which helps young people to make sense of their journey into care. Young people engage with health care plans and improve their emotional well-being.

The Registered Manager is extremely experienced and effective in her role. She continues to have good oversight of the quality of care and a keen insight into the experiences of young people. She uses this to drive continuous improvement in the service.

While the progress and experience of young people living in the home is exceptional, some young people have left the home with less positive outcomes. This is, in part because placements were not planned in a way that is consistent with the admission process set out in the homes statement of purpose.

The home has managed to reduce the use of physical restraint when managing challenging behaviour. When this intervention is used – records do not always described the type of physical restraint used or the interventions used to try to avoid it. This makes it difficult for the Registered Manager to be certain that physical intervention is delivered safely and only used as a last resort.

Information about this children's home

- The home provides long term care and accommodation for up to 6 children with learning difficulties.
- The home is owned and managed by Dr Bernardo's, who are a charitable trust.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
18/05/2015	Full	Good
16/03/2015	Interim	Not judged
21/01/2015	Interim	Not judged
14/01/2014	Interim	Inadequate Progress

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
The registered person must ensure that— (a) within 24 hours of the use of a measure of control, discipline or restraint in relation to a child in the home, a record is made which includes— (i) the name of the child; (ii) details of the child's behaviour leading to the use of the measure; (iii) the date, time and location of the use of the measure; (iv) a description of the measure and its duration; (v) details of any methods used or steps taken to avoid the need to use the measure; (vi) the name of the person who used the measure ("the user"), and of any other person present when the measure was used; (vii) the effectiveness and any consequences of the use of the measure; and (viii) a description of any injury to the child or any other person, and any medical treatment administered, as a result of the measure; (b) within 48 hours of the use of the measure, the registered person, or a person who is authorised by the registered person to do so ("the authorised person")— (i) has spoken to the user about the measure; and (ii) has signed the record to confirm it is accurate; and (c) within 5 days of the use of the measure, the registered person or the authorised person adds to the record confirmation that they have spoken to the child about the measure. (Regulation 35 (2)(3)(a)(b)(c))	10.03.16
13. The leadership and management standard: In order to meet the leadership and management standard, with specific reference to making sure that the home does not admit young people in emergencies. The registered person must:	20.02.16

2(a) lead and manage the home in a way that is consistent with the statement of purpose.	
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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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