

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC031504
Inspector	Sarah Canto
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Registered person	Bristol City Council
Registered person address	Bristol City Council, Director of Legal Services City Hall, College Green BRISTOL BS1 5TR
Responsible individual	Karen Mary Gazzard
Registered manager	Valerie Mower / Claire Marie Windeatt
Date of last inspection	21/11/2014

Inspection date	05/02/2015
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Previous inspection	adequate
Enforcement action since last inspection	NONE

This inspection

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

This short breaks home was judged adequate at the previous full inspection in November 2014. At this interim inspection, the judgement is that it has sustained its effectiveness.

Requirements and recommendations made at the last inspection are in the early stages of implementation. Sufficient progress has been made to demonstrate managers are taking robust action to meet the requirements. The requirement relating to the independent visitor role has not been met. The home has not benefitted from an independent visitor, providing monthly quality assurance reports, for over two months. The service manager has endeavoured to resolve this and arrangements are in place for a new visitor to start in February. Managers have undertaken work to ensure they meet the second outstanding requirement; they are working on a system for management reporting on service improvement every three months. This system is yet to be implemented and embedded.

The home has a new system in place for recording incidents of physical intervention. Restraints still occur in the home, but have reduced. Records now describe behaviour leading up to incidents, in more detail, and indicate that restraint is used as a last resort. Sanctions and restraint books have been re-designed into a new format which enables the managers to more easily review trends. Behaviour management plans are updated in accordance with this. Managers have also implemented a new behavioural management policy since the last inspection. As a result, young people have individualised plans to assist staff in providing suitable support.

Two young people have been placed at the home under emergency circumstances.

The young people now live in the home. Although this is provided for in the Statement of Purpose, such arrangements are not the usual function of this short breaks home. Despite the unplanned circumstances of their placement, the young people's confidence and behaviours have improved as a result of the care given. This in turn has positively affected the transition planning for young people. Managers work well with social workers, and other professionals, to secure future placements for young people. Other young people who no longer use the home since the last inspection, due to their age exceeding the limit, have moved on to the adult placements or have their needs met by family and education arrangements.

Contact with family members is encouraged; families visit the home and enjoy meal times and activities with young people. Social activities and friendships are also encouraged.

The home is undergoing a plan of decoration. Young people who live or stay in the home have personalised bedrooms. For example, one young person has matching bedding, cushions and rugs. For another young person, a staff member is designing a radiator cover in the shape of a robot as part of a space theme. Portable personalised notice boards enable young people to display drawings and photographs. Staff canvas young people's views about the decoration of communal areas and young people vote for their favourite options using a book of wall art images. Young people have also requested a zip wire for the garden which has been purchased and this is in the process of being installed. Therefore young people are listened to and given choices, which allows them to positively contribute to the running of the home. Unnecessary physical restrictions around the home have reduced to a satisfactory level such as the locking of toy cupboards and bath tap guards. This assists in decreasing an institutional feel in the home.

The managers provide regular supervision to staff, in accordance with the Statement of Purpose and the individual supervision contracts for each staff member. Team meetings take place regularly. Since the last inspection, managers have made several changes in systems to enhance the running of the home. Handover arrangements now ensure that staff, on every shift, discuss the young people. The weekly register demonstrates clearly which children and young people stay in the home and when. Plans are in place to ensure that all children, young people and staff practice what needs to happen in an emergency.

A young person said, 'I like coming here.' Observations indicate that young people enjoy spending time in the home and with the staff. Staff support young people to be as independent as possible and introduce goals with timescales: these are clear and achievable, such as independently making a trip to the shop.

The home reflects young people's heritages and has 'cultural months' where different foods and customs are celebrated which young people enjoy together. A carer said, 'This is a lovely place to work, the children and young people are great and we have a lot of fun.' Staff find the managers supportive. A recent survey of

parents indicated very positive opinions and managers demonstrate that any feedback is acted upon. A social worker commented that, 'Staff go above and beyond what they need to do.'

Information about this children's home

The home is managed by Bristol City Council. It provides care and accommodation for up to 10 children and young people, aged from five to 17 years at any one time, who have a learning disability and who may also have a physical disability. The home also provides an overnight short breaks service.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
21/11/2014	Full	adequate
03/03/2014	Interim	satisfactory progress
25/11/2013	Full	good
21/01/2013	Interim	good progress

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

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 Regulations 2001 and the National Minimum Standards. The registered person(s) must comply with the given timescales.

Reg.	Requirement	Due date
33 (2001)	ensure the independent person carrying out visits routinely interviews or observes children, interviews their parents or relatives to form an opinion as to whether children are effectively safeguarded and the home promotes the well-being of children (Regulation 33(8)(a)(i)&(ii))	28/03/2015
34 (2001)	establish and maintain a system for improving the quality of care in the home and include detail of this system in the report provided to HMCI at least every 3 months (Regulation 34(1)(a)&(b)&(2))	28/03/2015
33 (2001)	ensure visits by the independent person shall take place once a month and may be unannounced. (Regulation 33 (7))	28/03/2015

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.