

Children's homes - interim inspection

Inspection date	29 March 2016
Unique reference number	SC031504
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 Gazzard
Registered managers	Valerie Mower
	Claire Windeatt
Inspector	Clare Davies

Inspection date	29 March 2016
Previous inspection judgement	Requires improvement
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 Requires improvement at the full inspection. At this interim inspection Ofsted judge that it has sustained effectiveness.	
The previous inspection reported how this service was going through a period of transition, reducing the provision from ten to five places. It was anticipated that the full implementation of this change would occur by the end of February 2016. Due to circumstances, beyond the control of the registered managers, this transition plan has slipped and is now expected to be complete by the end of April 2016. Consequently the requirement relating to this has not been met. Through their job share arrangement, the two managers work well together and have made progress with many aspects of the service. They make good use of monitoring systems to evaluate this short break provision and identify areas for development. The independent visitor has visited every month to monitor the quality of care provided. The managers respond well to any recommendations made from these visits. In response to shortfalls identified at the previous inspection, there is an improved system to store and record the keeping and administration of non-prescribed medication. This provides clarity for an audit of the medication that is held on the premises resulting in a safer system. Record keeping has improved with stronger links across key documents such as care plans, risk assessments and positive handling plans. Staff have reviewed these documents to ensure that they are accurate and up to date. To strengthen the partnership working with parents, copies of risk assessments are shared to seek parental approval of the strategies employed for risk reduction. There is a more comprehensive recording system for any concerns, complaints or compliments. This provides evidence of compliments from parents and carers, thanking the managers and staff for the positive experiences children and young people have had. Two young people have left since the previous inspection as they reached the age of 18 years. These young people benefitted from a celebration of this milestone with special meals, outings and cards to mark the occasion. Young people leave this service with an album of photographs depicting their short break experience and the many activities and outings they have enjoyed.	

To create such albums, staff are responsive to children and young people and make good use of cameras and tablet computers. Photographs and videos capture moments of fun, participation and personal achievement. These images provide a good record for children, young people and their families. Staff are developing the use of a tablet computer to evidence how children and young people are supported to meet the requirements of the quality standards. For example, a series of photographs capture how a young person can select ingredients, prepare and then cook a snack, demonstrating the life skills they have learnt.

Regardless of the level of disability, children and young people are valued and the staff ensure that choices are offered wherever possible. There is a range of effective methods of communication to assist in making such choices. Staff know children and young people well, understanding their way of communicating through either speech, sign language, use of picture symbols or simply through their body language.

Behaviour management is successful, resulting in the rare use of physical intervention or sanctions. Distraction techniques are effectively used and staff are supported in this through access to a wide range of resources. Children and young people enjoy the sensory room, soft play and ball pool, games, toys, music and DVDs. The safe play area outside has been further enhanced by the creation of a sand pit inside a summer house. It has been decorated in bright colours with a seaside theme and now children and young people can enjoy this activity, regardless of the weather. As Spring approaches there are plans to create a vegetable plot where children and young people can grow vegetables and salad to eventually enjoy at a mealtime.

Children and young people enjoy their time at this short break service where they have some fun and have access to lots of activities and outings. Parents express high levels of satisfaction and report that they feel confident knowing their child is safe. One parents says, 'I have complete confidence and trust in the staff' and another says, 'I think this is an excellent service'.

Information about this children's home

This children's home is registered to provide short breaks for up to ten children of either sex, with physical disabilities and/or learning difficulties. It is operated by the local authority.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
16/12/2015	Full	Requires improvement
05/02/2015	Interim	Sustained effectiveness
21/11/2014	Full	Adequate
03/03/2014	Interim	Satisfactory 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
13: The leadership and management standard In order to meet the leadership and management standard, with particular reference to the reduction in service, the registered person must: (2)(a) lead and manage the home in a way that is consistent with the approach and ethos, and delivers the outcomes, set out in the home's statement of purpose.	01/05/2016

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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