

Children's homes - interim inspection

Inspection date	17/12/2015
Unique reference number	SC032315
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home
Registered person	Brighton & Hove City Council
Registered person address	Kings House, Grand Avenue, HOVE, East Sussex, BN3 2LS

Responsible individual	Jenny Brickell
Registered manager	Clare Brunt
Inspector	Lucy Chapman

Inspection date	17/12/2015
Previous inspection judgement	Outstanding
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 Outstanding at the full inspection. At this interim inspection, Ofsted judge that it has sustained effectiveness. The Registered Manager demonstrates commitment to maintaining exceptional standards of care and accommodation. She builds constructive links with local services to enhance opportunities for children. Local charities have recently provided funding for a log cabin; giving children improved opportunities for outdoor play. A stable and consistent staff team know children well and understand their care plans, ensuring that care effectively meets children's individual needs. A parent said 'I think the care is outstanding, it feels like a second home. He is very settled there and I have peace of mind knowing that he is happy and very well cared for'. Staff are dedicated to seeking children's wishes and feelings and maximising their input in decision-making. A new 'talking mat' improves opportunities for children who communicate non-verbally to share their views. Children choose their bedrooms, meals, activities and the children and staff with whom they spend time. Regular feedback from parents and children influences practice in the home; parents say that their contributions are valued and welcomed. Feedback from all sources describes excellent relationships between staff and children. A staff member said 'everybody enjoys their work, they love the company of the children; we all work hard to develop relationships and better understand our children'. A parent said 'Staff are professional, supportive, and communicative as well as being friendly and genuinely appreciating my son as an individual. I feel they genuinely care about both of us and feel very supported'. Staff have high expectations for children; innovative and carefully monitored individual goals for children's short break stays result in children making progress. A school comments that a child's personal skills have 'greatly improved' since he began having short break stays at the home. Staff promote activities and opportunities for children. The Registered Manager said 'we don't want to restrict children's activities or for their world to shrink'. Children's preferences guide the activities that they participate in, with activities tailored to maximise children's	

engagement and to meet their specific needs.

The home promotes positive behaviour through encouragement and praise; there is no use of sanction. The use of physical intervention is occasional and only to promote safety. Where used, it is effectively recorded with timely management oversight.

Staff address children's safety and welfare proactively. The formation of comprehensive care plans and risk assessments is in conjunction with parents, professionals and children wherever possible. These effectively guide care and promote children's safety. There have been no complaints, safeguarding concerns, allegations or children missing since the previous inspection. The home has received eight compliments; one parent said 'the home is the best thing that has happened to my family. My child has wonderful experiences there and trusts staff implicitly; they're absolutely brilliant with him'.

Improved safeguarding now includes staff training in online safety, child sexual exploitation and radicalisation. A member of staff said 'I would be more aware now if there was a risk and would be able to follow this up'. Policies accompany staff training and provide clear guidance should staff have safeguarding concerns. A new children's contract for safe online use ensures that staff provide safety guidance to children who access the internet. A children's online safety guide is available in a written and symbol format. Ongoing safeguarding review and updating ensures that staff and children have up to date information to maximise safety.

Regular independent monitoring of the home enhances quality assurance and safeguarding. The submission of independent monitoring reports to HMCI is not timely or consistent, this does not meet regulatory requirement.

Information about this children's home

The home is operated by the local authority. It provides short break care and accommodation for up to five children with learning disabilities and physical disabilities.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
18/05/2015	Full	Outstanding
24/02/2015	Interim	Sustained effectiveness
22/12/2014	Full	Outstanding
12/02/2014	Interim	Good 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
Ensure the independent person provides a copy of the independent person's report to HMCI. (Regulation 44(7)(a))	28/02/16

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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