

Children's homes - interim inspection

Inspection date	30/03/2016
Unique reference number	SC033919
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home
Registered provider	London Borough of Harrow
Registered person address	Civic Centre, Station Road, HARROW, Middlesex, HA1 2XF

Responsible individual	Christopher Spencer
Registered manager	Eithne Staunton
Inspector	Jacqueline Graves

Inspection date	30/03/2016
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. On the day of inspection, a day care provision was provided rather than a residential overnight service and therefore only limited contact with staff was possible. The home has sustained effectiveness since the recent full inspection in January 2016. No complaints about the service and no notifiable events have occurred. An independent person has continued to regularly visit the home to check what goes on and report on their findings. Their reports help the service to develop. The Registered Manager has good oversight of the service and seeks to constantly improve all aspects. The updated development plan identifies how the service will grow during the coming financial year. Due to some staff absences/retirement, management and the staff team, with the support of regularly used agency staff, have covered staff shortages. This has helped promote stability for children using the service while the recruitment, induction and training of new staff is ongoing. The main current focus for management is getting the staff team to full strength. Training is ongoing to ensure staff have the skills they need for the work. For example, training on the standard and consistency of recording was well-regarded by staff. Refresher training in physical intervention takes place to ensure staff can safely manage particularly challenging behaviour and protect children. However, there is rare use of physical intervention, with only two incidents requiring this during the last five years. Children have 'a voice'. The service continues to engage children in what goes on in the home. For example, interpreting Ofsted's reports into PECS so they can understand the inspection findings and introducing the new independent visitor so they are prepared to meet him. Staff take children's suggestions and requests seriously, discuss them in team meetings and follow them up. As a result, visits to favourite activities have increased and individual interests supported, for example, visits to the library and more trips to the park.	

Children continue to experience a wide range of activities during their short breaks. This includes eating out, horse riding, swimming and trips to museums. Activities are risk assessed, then reviewed, to ensure that they continue to meet children's needs and are safe.

Information about this children's home

This local authority children's home provides short breaks for up to five children and young people with learning, sensory and physical disabilities, at any one time.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
14/01/2016	Full	Outstanding
30/03/2015	Interim	Improved effectiveness
16/12/2014	Full	Outstanding
05/03/2014	Interim	Good Progress

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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