
Unique reference number	SC033919
Inspector	Carole Moore
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

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Registered person	London Borough of Harrow
Registered person address	Civic Centre Station Road HARROW Middlesex HA1 2XF
Responsible individual	Christopher Spencer
Registered manager	Eithne Staunton
Date of last inspection	16/12/2014

Inspection date	30/03/2015
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Previous inspection	outstanding
Enforcement action since last inspection	none

This inspection

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

Young people benefit from a service that is warm and welcoming. The home has valuable space for the young people both inside and outside the property. It provides a nurturing and stimulating environment that keeps young people safe. Ultimately, the young people enjoy their short breaks and considerable time is spent helping them to settle and feel confident and secure in their surroundings. The strength of this service is its flexibility in providing both day care and overnight stays.

The full inspection made one recommendation to review the missing person's procedure. This has been reviewed and rewritten to include a much smaller timeframe before the police are contacted.

The Registered Manager demonstrates a good understanding of the strengths and shortfalls of the home and continually works with staff to further develop their practice in clearly evidencing the work they undertake with the young people. She is proactive in ensuring all staff are up to date with the new regulations and any Ofsted changes. In preparation for the new quality standards, she has devised new paperwork to measure progress and has put in place a new skills-teaching record to record the steps taken to meet individual bespoke targets for the young people.

She has also devised new positive behavioural support plans in consultation with the child and mental health services to support the young people in terms of managing their complex needs. Training has also been put in place to enable staff to understand the new process so that they can be effective with the recording and management of the system.

The home has worked collaboratively with other services to ensure the transition into adult services for young people goes smoothly and staff share key information.

Transitions follow the individual pace of the young people. Staff design bespoke booklets for each young person using their preferred method of communication, to help them understand the move. This helps to avoid destabilising their progress.

Young people show they feel safe by telling staff they are happy. They use their voice, body language, vocal sounds, or signs to communicate their feelings. The staff team use a variety of methods to enable young people to contribute their thoughts and feelings. These include activity books, young people's meetings and specific one-to-one sessions.

Partnership working is good. For example, there is regular contact with the young people's social workers. There are regular meetings with the schools to support them and their families. Child and mental health services (CAMHS) also play a valuable part in the overall support arrangements. A 'team around the child' approach is firmly in place and all services meet together on a regular basis to ensure the right package. Parents are also central to the plans for their children and one parent wrote: 'Thanks to all the staff for their hard work and making the young person's stay as fun and comfortable as possible.'

Overall, there are significant improvements and no regulatory or national minimum standard shortfalls.

Information about this children's home

The children's home is owned and run by a local authority and provides short breaks for children and young people with learning, sensory and physical disabilities. The home is registered to admit five children and young people but only four bedrooms are currently available in the home to provide overnight and holiday stays.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
16/12/2014	Full	outstanding
05/03/2014	Interim	good progress
20/11/2013	Full	outstanding
05/02/2013	Interim	good progress

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.