

Children's homes - interim inspection

Inspection date	17 March 2016
Unique reference number	SC034301
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 manager	Emma Hood
Inspector	Clare Davies

Inspection date	17 March 2016
Previous inspection judgement	Good
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 Good at the full inspection. At this interim inspection Ofsted judge that it has sustained effectiveness.	
Young people enjoy positive experiences at this home and with staff support they are making good progress. Strong relationships between young people and the staff team contribute to their personal and social development. The stability of the staff team promotes consistent boundaries. This enables young people to have some security in knowing what is expected of them and what likely consequences they will face if they challenge the boundaries. As a result, the number of incidents of anti-social behaviour is minimal. Young people develop trust with the staff. As a result, young people gain in confidence and begin to embrace the support that staff can offer. As a result there is regular attendance in education and young people are engaging well with external agencies. Young people receive support with regards to drug use, their mental health, and keeping themselves safe. Incidents of being reported as missing have drastically reduced, thereby lowering the risk of sexual exploitation. There has been one incident requiring physical intervention to prevent young people hurting themselves or others. This incident occurred in February 2016 and was the first since January 2015. This confirms that this type of behaviour management is rarely used. As young people approach the age of 18 years the staff team prepare young people to move on to alternative placements as young adults. Outreach support continues to enable young people to develop new support networks outside of residential care. The manager and staff are dedicated in supporting young people with these often difficult transitions. Equally, new young people are welcomed into the home with planned visits and participation with their move such as choosing colours and decoration for their bedroom. The house is decorated and furnished well to create a warm welcoming environment. The kitchen provides a hub to sit and chat and where cooking is very popular amongst young people. Preparing and cooking meals not only develops life skills, but provides a social aspect to mealtimes. During this inspection, young people decided to bake a cake for a staff member's birthday. The kitchen was	

decorated with banners and balloons as young people worked together to create the surprise event. These actions are indicative of the positive relationships between young people and staff where there is fun and laughter between them.

The manager and staff work well in partnership with families. They recognise the need to support young people in developing these relationships where it is safe to do so. Young people are given the time and space to develop strategies to strengthen and repair relationships with those important to them. This enables them to benefit from their family connections while they are in residential care and, perhaps more importantly, to have support systems once they leave.

Since the previous inspection, the achievements and experiences of young people are really good as they have extended their progress and reduced incidents of negative behaviour. However, progress is lacking with regards to the monitoring and review of records. A young person complained to the manager in January 2016 and the records do not indicate if this matter has been resolved. Monthly monitoring undertaken by the manager is incomplete for January 2016 and the regular review of risk assessments is not always evidenced for each young person. The direct impact on young people is minimal however; requirements are issued from this inspection to address these shortfalls.

An independent person has been appointed by the local authority to undertake monitoring visits as described under regulation 44. Failure to visit in the month of December 2015 means that the last requirement to this effect has not been met and is therefore repeated from this inspection.

Information about this children's home

This children's home is registered to provide care and accommodation for up to five young people of either sex, with emotional and behavioural difficulties. It is operated by the local authority.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
08/09/2015	Full	Good
20/02/2015	Interim	Improved effectiveness
24/10/2014	Full	Adequate
05/02/2014	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, the registered person must: use monitoring and review systems to make continuous improvements in the quality of care provided in the home. (Regulation 13 (2)(h))	30/04/2016
39: Complaints and representations The registered person must ensure that a record is made of any complaint, the action taken in response, and the outcome of any investigation. (Regulation 39 (3))	01/04/2016
44: Independent person: visits and reports The registered person must ensure that an independent person visits the children's home at least once each month. (Regulation 44 (1))	01/04/2016

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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