

Children's homes – Interim inspection

Inspection date	23/03/2017
Unique reference number	SC066187
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home
Registered provider	Cambian Childcare Ltd
Registered provider address	4th Floor, Waterfront, Hammersmith Embankment, London W6 9RU

Responsible individual	Sharon Edney
Registered manager	Fiona Rees
Inspector	Lisa Walsh

Inspection date	23/03/2017
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 judges that it has sustained effectiveness. Since the full inspection, there have been two changes to the young people living at the home, with one discharge and one new admission. Staff plan well for transitions and are proactive in their approach. To support a transition plan for one young person, the registered manager arranged for medication training to be made available to parents. This helped parents to have confidence in the administration of medication. The registered manager continues to lead a stable staff team that is child-focused, attentive and caring. Young people continue to thrive and make progress because of the exceptional care they receive. All young people continue to attend bespoke educational placements and have excellent attendance. Staff place a high value on education and work collaboratively with school to understand and respond to barriers to engagement. For some young people, this has resulted in remarkable changes in both their engagement and their attitude to school. As a result, these young people are not only regularly attending school but they are now exploring further educational opportunities. Young people are able to talk to staff about historic difficulties. Staff use their trusting relationships and communication skills to prepare young people for the next steps in their lives. This has enabled staff to facilitate additional support to help meet the young people's needs. Staff understand the need for young people to feel reassured, cared for and, most importantly, wanted. Staff achieve this by offering young people lots of positive attention, praise and encouragement. Staff understand young people's individual vulnerabilities and triggers that can place them at risk. Some young people do go missing from home and are vulnerable to child sexual exploitation. Safeguarding incidents are consistently referred to the relevant professionals and staff work collaboratively with key agencies to manage risks. Strong relationships with the police and local authorities are used to protect young people from harm. However, the absence of consistent return interviews hinders the process of monitoring and review. Staff are intuitive, alert and responsive to the needs of young people and, as a result, they are able to recognise trigger signs quickly and take the necessary steps	

to de-escalate situations. This means that physical interventions are rare and the frequency of risk-taking behaviours for most young people reduces significantly.

The registered manager continues to have a comprehensive understanding of the home and uses monitoring systems effectively to ensure that young people are safe and making sustained progress. The registered manager is not scared to challenge others if their practice is not of the expected standard.

Young people's self-esteem and confidence are promoted through a wide range of varied and focused activities, both in and outside the home. Staff support young people to develop social skills and relationships, and to enjoy healthy living. Good-quality daily experiences help young people to make progress during their time at the home.

Information about this children's home

The home provides care and accommodation for up to three young people who have emotional and/or behavioural difficulties. The home provides emergency placements as well as planned admissions. The home is privately owned.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
22/11/2016	Full	Outstanding
31/03/2016	Interim	Improved effectiveness
14/09/2015	Full	Good
19/03/2015	Interim	Improved effectiveness

What does the children's home need to do to improve?

Recommendations

To improve the quality and standards of care further the service should take account of the following recommendation:

- When a child returns to the home after being missing from care or away from the home without permission, the responsible local authority must provide an opportunity for the child to have an independent return home interview. Homes should take account of information provided by such interviews when assessing risks and putting arrangements in place to protect each child. ('Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards', page 45, paragraph 9.30)

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 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 that 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 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 whom 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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