

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC393567
Inspector	James Harmon
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Registered person	Priory Education Services Ltd
Registered person address	5th Floor 80 Hammersmith Road London W14 8UD
Responsible individual	Helen Sharpe
Registered manager	POST VACANT
Date of last inspection	25/06/2014

Inspection date	21/01/2015
------------------------	------------

Previous inspection	adequate
Enforcement action since last inspection	none

This inspection

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

The service was judged adequate in June 2014 at the last inspection and two recommendations were made. The leadership developed a detailed action plan to improve the quality of service young people receive. The previous recommendations have now been met and the service has demonstrated improved effectiveness during this interim inspection.

The Registered Manager left post in November 2014 and the deputy manager was appointed to the post shortly after and is in the process of registering as manager. The new manager is a popular choice among the young people and staff. The new manager worked closely with the outgoing registered manager and this has ensured consistency in the management the service. The new manager is proactively making and overseeing changes which have led to an improved quality of service and better outcomes for young people.

An improvement in the recruitment and introduction for new staff has resulted in a consistent rota, safe practices and improved relationships between staff and young people. Prior to directly working with young people new staff undergo a week long induction programme while completing behaviour management, safeguarding, first aid and other training. In addition all staff have recently completed refresher training in safeguarding.

The home has been fitted with new carpet throughout and repairs are undertaken without delay. The views of young people are taken into consideration and incorporated into the home, which has contributed to an atmosphere where young people feel comfortable and safe. Young people present as happy while having well-established and positive relations with staff.

Young people are now benefiting from improvements in the documentation of care

plans and detailed risk assessments that centre upon young people's individual needs. Young people understand their care plans and their views are obtained and documented accordingly. Young people are directly involved in their care planning and this has led to positive outcomes. For example some young people now preparing to return home based upon improvements in their behaviour.

The reward and consequences policy has contributed to a decline in consequences (sanctions) and physical interventions for young people. When a young person does experience behavioural difficulties rather than impose a consequence immediately, staff work with the young person to correct their behaviour. A young person said that the staff 'don't overreact and snatch something earned when someone has a bad day, things are always talked through and you feel better.'

Young people are being prepared for independence by having bank accounts opened complete with debit cards. Young people are also provided with their own weekly shopping budget and can prepare their own meals based upon individual preference. Some young people have successfully been taught to travel and undertake activities independently.

The communication with parents and significant professionals (particularly in education) has improved significantly as evidenced in young people's planning and communication logs. There is daily communication between school and the staff that assists continuity of care for a young people.

Information about this children's home

This home is an independent residential home that meets the needs of young people who have behavioural, emotional and social difficulties. It provides accommodation for young people who attend the local associated residential special school.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
25/06/2014	Full	adequate
16/12/2013	Full	adequate
05/07/2013	Interim	not judged
23/01/2013	Interim	inadequate 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.