

Children's homes – Interim inspection

Inspection date	09/02/2017
Unique reference number	SC402385
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home
Registered provider	Priory Education Services Limited
Registered provider address	Priory Group, 80 Hammersmith Road, London W14 8UD

Responsible individual	Dan Svensson
Registered manager	Ashley Baker
Inspector	Louise Battersby

Inspection date	09/02/2017
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 judges that it has sustained effectiveness.	
One young person continues to live at the home and a further two new young people have moved in since the last inspection. Young people are now benefiting from tailor-made learning packages that reflect their individual needs. This has helped enhance their education so that academic progress can be made. Missing from care and risk-taking behaviour rapidly improve because of young people's placements. These improvements are achieved because the staff use their nurturing and caring relationships to help young people to make safer decisions. The manager is aware of the home's strengths and weaknesses, and has a development plan in place. This plan has incorporated improvements that include strengthening staff training and purchasing play equipment for the young people. Young people take part in a range of activities, including playing board games with staff, going out with friends, attending trampoline classes and playing snooker. The staff make sure that the home is well decorated and has a homely and calm atmosphere. Young people take pride in their home and especially their bedrooms, which they have personalised with their own choice of bedding, curtains and photographs. The manager brings in his pet dog to visit, which the young people thoroughly enjoy and benefit from. This helps young people to feel relaxed and happy in the environment in which they live. Young people are supported to develop the skills required for living independently. Consequently, young people are able to manage a budget, cook, clean and use public transport.	

At the full inspection, two requirements and one recommendation were made. The practice of locking the kitchen door is no longer taking place, and staff are now receiving core training. However, the manager is still not receiving the opportunity to benefit from reflective practice in his supervisions. This recommendation has therefore been repeated.

Information about this children's home

The home accommodates up to five young people who have emotional and/or behavioural difficulties. It is run by a private company. The home's statement of purpose indicates that the age range of the young people in the home will be between 14 and 19 years.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
09/08/2016	Full	Good
09/02/2016	Interim	Declined in effectiveness
22/07/2015	Full	Good
18/02/2015	Interim	Sustained 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:

- Ensure that all staff, including the manager, receive supervision of their practice from an appropriately qualified and experienced professional, which allows them to reflect on their practice and the needs of the children assigned to their care. Professionally qualified staff employed by the home, such as teachers or social workers, should be provided with relevant professional or clinical supervision by an appropriately qualified and experienced professional. ('Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards', page 61, paragraph 13.2)

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 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 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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