

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC402406
Inspector	Suzanne Young
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	Karen Lewis-Farr / POST VACANT
Date of last inspection	01/10/2014

Inspection date	07/01/2015
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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 **sustained effectiveness**.

This home is sustaining effectiveness since judged as adequate at the last inspection in October 2014.

A new manager has started at the home since the last inspection. She is currently undergoing registration and is appropriately qualified. The manager has responded to the requirements raised at the last inspection. She has worked to establish systems to monitor outcomes for young people and to develop an improved quality assurance process to improve recording and review patterns and trends. The manager has also developed systems for monitoring the home's environment. This helps ensure the home environment is clean, safe and well maintained.

Young people continue to display very challenging behaviours. As a result, their experiences within the home have not always been positive. Staff respond appropriately to challenging and potentially violent behaviour, although on occasions they have experienced difficulties resulting in police being called to the home. There is a good balance of experience among the staff team. Staff training reflects the presenting needs of young people. The manager has ensured that staff are trained in areas, such as, self-harm. For example, all staff have recently undergone ligature training.

Discussions with young people following restraints are not being adequately recorded. Records do not detail young people's feelings and views about what has happened to them. This does not allow for the manager or staff to reflect and learn in order to develop their practice. The manager has recognised this and is developing systems that will allow patterns and trends to be reviewed to inform future practice.

Partnership working is good. The manager and staff continue to work closely with

other agencies, including safeguarding teams and the police. As a result, there has been a recent reduction in young people going missing and engaging in risk taking behaviours in the community.

When young people move on, staff endeavour to make their transition as smooth and easy as possible. Due to the very difficult presenting behaviours of some young people, this has not always been planned as staff and the manager would have liked.

Some young people are making good progress at the home. They are attending school and engage in clubs and activities in the local area. Young people's views are mixed about whether they enjoy living at the home. One young person rated the home 10 out of 10. They all have formed good relationships with various staff members and generally feel staff are fair. Young people are aware of, and able to use the complaints procedure for raising concerns.

Information about this children's home

The home accommodates up to three young people who have emotional and behavioural difficulties. It is run by a private company.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
01/10/2014	Full	adequate
27/03/2014	Interim	satisfactory progress
28/11/2013	Full	good
27/03/2013	Interim	good progress

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

Recommendations

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

- ensure young people and staff are given the opportunity to discuss incidents of restraint they have been involved in, witnessed or been affected by, with a relevant adult (NMS 3.17)

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.