

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC406638
Inspector	Sharon Lewis
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Registered manager	John Ajonye Ofutu
Date of last inspection	17/10/2014

Inspection date	20/03/2015
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Previous inspection	good
Enforcement action since last inspection	none

This inspection

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

Young people receive care in a home which has improved in effectiveness since the last inspection in October 2014. Young people benefit from excellent stability, increased self-esteem and high quality individualised support within a therapeutic framework. This is a consistently good service and young people's needs are at the heart of the significant improvements the home has made. The service succeeds in providing a nurturing environment where young people continue to flourish. There are no requirements or recommendations from this inspection. The home complies with regulations and there is a good awareness of the forthcoming changes.

The home has successfully addressed the two requirements from the last inspection. The updating of the statement of purpose ensures young people; parents and involved professionals have all necessary relevant information about the home. This document now includes more information on physical interventions as required in the regulations. Young people receive more protection from their home environment. Window restrictors are now on young people's bedrooms, which better promotes their personal safety. Young people benefit from a more homely environment. Certificates of achievements and photographs of young people and staff are on display on the lounge walls. Young people are able to showcase their art work in various part of the building.

Young people state that 'this is the first time in months I have felt happy'. They highlight that 'everything has been great'. Staff describe young people as being 'a lot calmer', 'less angry and violent'. Young people are no longer expressing suicidal thoughts and they are positively engaging in external creative therapies. In house psychotherapy is also available. Young people have strong attachments to staff, fondly highlighting that their keyworker is 'like my Dad'. Staff highlight that it is a 'great achievement gaining trust'.

The group living experience positively enhances young people's lives. They get on well and enjoy playing on the games console together. Young people lead an active social life. They attend youth clubs and keep fit by playing football, going swimming and eating a balanced diet. They enjoy developing their interests which include bicycle motocross riding, writing poetry and photography. Young people receive the courage to express pride in who they are. They learn to have a positive identity, which includes embracing their heritage, sexual orientation and acknowledging their disability. Young people are more independent, cooking, baking and offering hospitality to staff. They are engaging in education, this includes mainstream schooling and home tuition.

Young people benefit from strong safeguarding arrangements. They state that they 'feel safe and happier here'. Young people feel able to disclose issues regarding past abuse and they receive the relevant ongoing support. The home proactively addresses incidents where young people are absent without authority. This includes completing specialist forms, highlighting the action taken to prevent a missing episode. Leaders and managers also strongly advocate for meetings to be held with placing authorities to promptly address issues.

Young people learn the importance of personal safety; this includes interactive sessions which cover on-line safety. This results in young people no longer putting themselves at risk of sexual exploitation. Young people also benefit from the home's comprehensive location review. This document extensively references social research and demonstrates a good understanding of the potential risks for young people. The location assessment purposefully includes an action plan, which further protects young people.

Young people are taking their prescribed medication and they are able to self-regulate when they are undergoing emotional distress. Young people independently have periods of time out, where they go to their room to calm down. Young people are also able to think on a higher level, which enables them to reflect on their negative behaviour. There are significant improvements, resulting in young people receiving external awards for their behaviour. Young people are no longer vandalising property or using verbally aggressive language. The home works with them to tackle racist and sexist attitudes. Young people are more tolerant and demonstrate a greater respect for others. They receive a considerable level of rewards and very few sanctions. This approach positively recognises young people's achievements and contributes to their increased self-esteem.

A key strength of the home is the stability of placements. Leaders and managers prioritise the welfare of the young people, ensuring they do not accept unsuitable referrals. New young people have a structured induction which provides them with 'sufficient information to enable them to make optimal use of their staff at the home. Since the last inspection no young people have left the home.

The home endeavours to promote positive contact, in accordance with the placing

authorities arrangements. Relatives and friends visit the home and where applicable young people have overnight stays with parents. Young people enjoy entertaining their guests at the home, which includes having dinner together. Staff are instrumental in strengthening family relationships and working towards reunification back to the family home. The home where possible works in partnership with parents. Parents highlight that the home is 'well organised' and staff are 'nice' and 'professional'.

The home has a good quality assurance system, which includes meticulous monitoring in accordance with regulations. Young people influence service delivery and provide regular feedback through their satisfaction questionnaires. They collectively discuss issues at house meetings and positively contribute towards decision making, an example being the shopping list. Young people work in partnership with staff to produce meaningful personal goals. A good example of this is their individual independence programmes. The home also has strong partnership arrangements with social workers. Placing authority appreciate the home's positive impact thanking them for their 'continued hard work'. They highlighting that young people are 'now in the best place'.

Young people benefit from the successful formal implementation of therapeutic child care. The staff team are more confident as they put their therapeutic training into practice. Staff felt training was 'exceptionally helpful in giving them a deeper understanding into the inner working model of the young people'. Staff receive ongoing support from the home's psychotherapist and reflective practice sessions. Staff are currently studying for leadership and management qualifications, which further heightens their expertise. Leaders and managers additionally benefit from professional supervision which tackles emotional alongside business related issues. The therapeutic framework runs like a thread throughout all areas of the home's working practices. This results in a more life enriching service for young people.

Information about this children's home

This is a private home. It is registered to accommodate up to three children and young people with emotional or behavioural difficulties.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
17/10/2014	Full	good
04/02/2014	Interim	good progress
20/09/2013	Full	good
13/03/2013	Interim	good 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.