

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC412979
Inspector	Charlie Bamber
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Registered person	Priory New Education Services Limited
Registered person address	Unsted Regional Office Munsted Heath Road Godalming Surrey GU7 1UW
Responsible individual	Katherine Bridon
Registered manager	Ase Sophie Farbrot
Date of last inspection	26/06/2014

Inspection date	24/02/2015
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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**.

The overall judgement given at the last full inspection was good with an outstanding rating given under outcomes for children and young people. Since this time there has been some movement of young people for which the planning has been well thought through with an emphasis on the impact that movement has on the young people who are already settled in the home. There are systems in place to ensure that each young person has a highly individualised plan of care which addresses their particular needs. For example one new admission to the home has a bedroom, bathroom and living area located on a separate floor to the other bedrooms because he requires quiet space away from the other young people. The result of these arrangements is that the young people can live together without the presentation of their condition being detrimental to the other young people in the home.

Since the previous inspection one young person who suffers from Pica (the persistent eating of non- edible substances) has become quite seriously ill. In an effort to minimize the recurrence of this, the outside area of the home has been significantly redesigned with safety as a priority, so that the young people can continue to make full use of their outside space in the safest way possible. Two to one support for young people also promotes their safety to the highest level and is proportionate to their presenting disabilities. Physical interventions continue to be used to keep the young people safe. The number of physical interventions has significantly reduced since one young person moved placement. The physical interventions are used only when necessary; they are proportionate and are well documented. A debrief pictorial aid has been developed for use to assist young people in expressing their feelings following an intervention.

The internal areas of the home have previously been decorated in plain, calm colours with minimal soft furnishings and art work on display. This is in line with the young people's need to have minimal external visual stimulation and a calm

environment. The home has started to gradually introduce some colour and photographs into the décor and this has so far been successful, allowing the young people to have more personalised bedroom and living spaces. Curtains have been introduced to the dining area and, whilst these are frequently torn down, the staff believe it is important that the young people have the opportunity to live in a welcoming and homely environment and therefore re hang the curtains on a very regular basis. A cleaner has recently been employed which has greatly assisted in maintaining the cleanliness and hygiene of the home to a very high standard.

The management of the home has remained stable and whilst the Registered Manager is currently managing two homes within the Priory group, a competent assistant manager is ensuring that effective arrangements are in place. A recruitment process is ongoing to secure an individual Registered Manager for each of the homes. The management arrangements are robust. There have been two allegations made against a member of staff under the company's whistle blowing policy and these have been referred to the relevant authorities and thoroughly investigated by the Registered Manager. Actions have been implemented to continue to monitor any concerns about staff practice. Supervision takes place regularly, including supervision of ancillary staff and clear systems of line management are in place. The standard of record keeping is very high. Good organisation and the ability of the managers to streamline their records ensure that records are relevant, clear, concise and not duplicated. The manager has addressed the statutory requirement and the recommendation from the full inspection.

Reports by the independent person outline a number of areas for improvement. The Registered Manager develops these recommendations into an action plan to which clear responses and progress are documented. A number of recommendations are repeated over two or more months and the Registered Manager is mindful of this and takes appropriate action to make improvements where necessary and provides detailed explanations for the reasons that action in some areas has not been taken. Monitoring by the Registered Manager is generally of good quality although there are some typographical errors which require attention and correction.

Progress for the young people can be slow and difficult to evaluate. The introduction of the social assessment tool has been very successful in evidencing progress by providing a baseline assessment in graphical form and documenting each small step forward the young people make. The home work extremely hard on all areas of communication, particularly for the non-verbal young people. The consistent use of PECS across all the care settings that the young people access is allowing them to make real progress in this area. This results in them being increasingly able to make choices and express their wishes. There is a high degree of attention to the correlation between the young people's behaviours and the factors that potentially affect them so that staff are attuned to what the behaviour of a young person may be communicating. This is also evidenced in graphical form to determine patterns and trends in behaviour, resulting in staff being able to interpret young people's behaviour into meaningful communication.

Young people are encouraged to try new experiences and increasingly participate in community activities. Staff also work alongside parents in supporting them to access the community with their child.

There is a coordinated approach to working with parents and partner agencies to ensure that the young people receive consistent care. This is especially important for young people with Autistic spectrum disorders. Staff make good use of the specialist services available to them and work alongside these professionals to develop behaviour, support and care plans that are fully in line with the young people's needs.

Information about this children's home

This children's home is operated by a private organisation and is registered to care for up to four young people. The home provides residential and respite care for young people with learning disabilities.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
26/06/2014	Full	good
03/12/2013	Interim	inadequate progress
09/05/2013	Full	good
26/10/2012	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.