

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC454294
Inspector	Liz Driver
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Registered person	Childhood First
Registered person address	Childhood First 210 Borough High Street LONDON SE1 1JX
Responsible individual	Stephen Blunden
Registered manager	Gary John Yexley
Date of last inspection	19/12/2014

Inspection date	24/03/2015
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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 **sustained effectiveness**.

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At the last inspection carried out in December 2014, two recommendations were made and these have been addressed. The Registered Manager has taken action to implement new procedures for visitors to sign in and out so that the whereabouts of visitors is now known at all times. Some staff have undertaken on-line e-safety training with additional training planned for May 2015. This will keep staff up to date with challenges faced with social media and the risks posed to children.

Children continue to make good progress. Education attendance is not as good as it was at the last inspection. The current challenges to education attendance have resulted in much work being carried out by the staff to re-engage back into education quickly. Good levels of communication with educational professionals, social workers and therapist provides consistency in the approach to managing these difficult times. The package of care, education and therapy assists children moving forward.

The impact of new admissions is closely monitored and regularly assessed by the Registered Manager to ensure any negative impact is limited and addressed. Referral matching criteria remains a comprehensive process. This includes a period of assessment to ensure the child is positively engaging in the education, care and therapy package. Transition procedures are well managed and offer children a smooth introduction.

The staff team deliver clear and consistent boundaries while being approachable and supportive. Staff are very aware of individual challenges and behaviour and respond well to any incidents of poor behaviour. The number of physical interventions is low. Staff are suitably trained to participate in physical intervention and the Registered Manager reviews all such incidents. Any concerns raised by children following physical intervention are taken seriously with the correct procedures followed. This includes safeguarding procedures.

A newly implemented complaints file specifically for children allows for improved recording

by staff with a clear focus on addressing children's concerns or worries. This has improved the way in which complaints are managed and audited by the Registered Manager and places greater importance on managing children's complaints and concerns.

Staff have good knowledge of and awareness of child protection and safeguarding practice. Any incident relating to safeguarding or child protection is promptly notified to the correct agency. The Registered Manager is pro-active in seeking training for the staff, especially in social media use and child sexual exploitation.

Managers and leaders continue to be effective in the monitoring of the quality of care and professional practice the young people receive. Where improvements are identified they are addressed, such as developing care files to better evidence progress made by children.

No requirements or recommendations have been made as a result of this inspection. The Registered Manager is informed of the changes to the new inspection framework and quality standards being introduced from 1st April 2015. He is working to ensure the service meets the required standards.

Information about this children's home

The home is registered to provide care and accommodation for four young people with emotional and/or behavioural difficulties. It is operated by a charitable organisation.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
19/12/2014	Full	good
18/03/2014	Interim	good progress
16/04/2013	Full	good

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.