

Children's homes – Interim inspection

Inspection date	15/02/2017
Unique reference number	SC456602
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home
Registered provider	Cambian Childcare Ltd
Registered provider address	4th Floor, Waterfront, Hammersmith Embankment, London W6 9RU

Responsible individual	Ian Raine
Registered manager	Michael Bowe
Inspector	Nick Murphy

Inspection date	15/02/2017
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 improved effectiveness. The home continues to provide stability for the young people and a commitment to their future. Only one young person has moved out since the last inspection over eight months ago, returning to the care of their parents, in accordance with their plan. All of the young people are doing well. They are in school or further education and achieving their potential. The young people who needed additional support in education are now able to manage without it, indicating increased maturity. They are engaged in work to promote their self-reliance and prepare them for independent living. Some have taken the initiative in taking part in charity events. This demonstrates an increasing awareness of the needs of others less fortunate than themselves. One young person is a regular attendee at his local authority's Children in Care Council. On the day of the inspection, he had travelled to London to represent the region at a conference. The success that the young people have achieved is a direct result of the systematic, skilled care provided by the staff. Care plans are detailed and updated regularly, so that they take account of any changes in circumstances. The young people are fully involved in their plans, meaning that they are able to shape the strategies which the staff put in place to promote their welfare and keep them safe. For one younger person, the staff have designed a child-friendly version of the plan which enables them to understand and engage with it more effectively. This is an excellent initiative which demonstrates the ambition of the registered manager and the staff group to seek continuous improvement. This culture of improvement is reflected in the registered manager's introduction to the staff team of more research-based learning. For example, he is investigating the use of a psychological model to use with young people, which aims to equip them with the self-awareness and skills they will need to flourish in life. This will complement the already reflective and child-centred ethos in the home. The home is successful at keeping young people safe. One young person went through a period when they went missing on several occasions. The staff were diligent in following them and working in partnership with the police and other agencies to maintain oversight and return them quickly. They then considered how	

to prevent further incidents by supporting the young person more intensively. A plan was developed for the staff to spend more individual time with the young person. They did this by sharing simple activities, such as colouring in, and promoting leisure opportunities outside the home. The young person has engaged well with this approach, even overcoming their lack of confidence by joining a local football team, and going climbing. As a result, there have been no further incidents of going missing for over four months.

Staff are open in discussing with the young people their concerns for their safety, and negotiating strategies to protect them from harm. For example, some young people have placed themselves at risk by using social media inappropriately. The staff agree rules for the use of mobile phones, and supervised access to the internet, which allows the young people a degree of freedom while safeguarding them.

The success of the staff in forging meaningful relationships with the young people is indicated by the low incidents of physical restraint. When it does occur, staff take time to explain to the young person why it happened and explore different ways in which the young person could have expressed their distress or anger. Such incidents, and the resulting debriefing for young people, are recorded in detail. Their quality is reflected in most other records in the home. However, when young people have gone missing, there is no record of the interviews carried out by an independent person when they return. This means that the home misses the opportunity to gain as much information as possible in relation to incidents and use it to update plans or risk assessments.

The registered manager has fully addressed the requirements made at the last inspection. Of particular note is the improvement in the standard of young people's bedrooms. The staff have worked intensively with the young people to involve them in choosing new furniture. One young person said that they wanted to design their own wardrobe, so they sat down with the joiner and did just that. As a result, the previous pattern of this young person repeatedly destroying their bedroom furniture has completely disappeared. The investment that all young people have in the home is clear. They are particularly proud of the dining room, where wall displays show off their achievements. These include certificates for charity work, a framed football shirt and photos of them on activities.

Information about this children's home

The home provides accommodation for up to three children who have emotional and/or behavioural difficulties. It is operated by a private company.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
31/05/2016	Full	Good
23/03/2016	Interim	Improved effectiveness
21/07/2015	Full	Good
17/03/2015	Interim	Improved 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:

- When a child returns to the home after being missing from care or away from the home without permission, the responsible local authority must provide an opportunity for the child to have an independent return home interview. Homes should take account of information provided by such interviews when assessing risks and putting arrangements in place to protect each child ('Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards', page 45, paragraph 9.30)

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 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 whom 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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