

Children's home – Interim inspection

Inspection date	15/02/2017
Unique reference number	SC476270
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	Alison Blyth-Bishop
Registered manager	Rebecca Hogben
Inspector	Paul Robinson

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 sustained effectiveness.	
The home has experienced a continued period of stability with no new admissions or discharges. All children continue to make steady progress in respect of their social, emotional, health and education progress. For some children, this progress means that they are now ready to move on to new placements. Staff are diligent in their planning for these pending transitions, working closely with children and new providers to ensure that the needs of the child are understood and that the required support is in place to enable a successful transition. Staff continue to be proactive in their management of risk-taking behaviours, supporting children to develop the skills and knowledge to make safe choices. As a result, children do not go missing and children rarely use maladaptive coping strategies such as self-harm. Staff effectively use rewards and incentives to promote positive behaviour, and this reduces the need for sanctions. Staff use their positive relationships with children to de-escalate situations and avoid the use of physical interventions when possible. Overall partnership working continues to be strong, with staff maintaining effective relationships with key stakeholders including the police, school and placing authorities. However, links with the clinical team, which were previously excellent, have not been as successful. This has meant that there have been times when some children have not always experienced the therapeutic input that they require. Positively, the registered manager has addressed this shortfall and has worked with the clinical team to reconsider how therapy sessions are delivered to ensure that they are tailored to the individual needs of children. At the full inspection, two requirements and two recommendations were raised. Children now have access to records that are helpful and easy for them to understand. This has enabled children to contribute to their care. The registered manager has demonstrated an increased effectiveness at reviewing the quality of care that children experience to ensure that children receive personalised care.	

Despite this progress, one recommendation and one requirement remain outstanding from the last inspection. Firstly, one staff member is still to complete their level 3 residential childcare qualification. Reassuringly, this is expected to have been completed by April 2017. Secondly, staff continue to use bedroom door alarms without any formal assessment or review that this restriction on children's privacy meets their individual needs.

Information about this children's home

This home is operated by a private company and is registered to provide care and accommodation for up to five children who have emotional and/or behavioural difficulties. Children currently placed are aged from 8 to 12 years.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
19/07/2016	Full	Good
03/03/2016	Interim	Sustained effectiveness
03/08/2015	Full	Good
27/02/2015	Interim	Improved effectiveness

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

Statutory requirements

This section sets out the actions which must be taken so that the registered person/s meets the Care Standards Act 2000, Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015 and the 'Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards'. The registered person(s) must comply within the given timescales.

Requirement	Due date
The registered person must ensure that staff have the appropriate qualification for the work they perform by the date which falls two years after the date on which the individual started working in a care role in a home. (Regulation 32 (4)(a))	01/05/2017

Recommendations

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

- Ensure that staff respect children's privacy and support the other children living in the home to do so. ('Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards', page 16, paragraph 3.17)

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 that 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 who 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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