

Children's homes – Interim inspection

Inspection date	16/11/2016
Unique reference number	1159755
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home
Registered provider	St Christopher's Fellowship
Registered provider address	St Christophers Fellowship, 1 Putney High Street, London SW15 1SZ

Responsible individual	Ron Giddens
Registered manager	Parveen Banga
Inspector	Bridget Goddard

Inspection date	16/11/2016
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	
<p>This home was judged good at the full inspection. At this interim inspection Ofsted judge that it has sustained effectiveness.</p> <p>Two requirements and four recommendations resulted from the last full inspection. The home has successfully met all of these. There are no requirements or recommendations from this inspection.</p> <p>The home now has clear records of any incidents involving restriction of liberty, and these are subject to appropriate management scrutiny. There are low numbers of such restrictions, but when instigated, their use is entirely appropriate. Staff have a good understanding of when to use such restraint, and ensure that its use is for the shortest possible time.</p> <p>The children's guide has been reviewed with the help of young people. It is now clear about young people's use of mobile phones and oyster cards, and clarifies that there is a stepped process towards free use. Young people who have been recently admitted to the home are aware of this.</p> <p>The home is part of a wider organisation which is transitioning from a paper file system, to an electronic one. This is now almost completed, and the impact of the changes is now being well managed to minimise disruption to operational services.</p> <p>Young people's medication records are now routinely reviewed as part of the independent visitor checks. Staff are more knowledgeable about individually prescribed medicine, in that there are now profiles of each young person. This helps staff understand administration issues and possible side-effects better.</p> <p>The home is using good practice from a sister home to help young people develop independence skills. This is being locally driven by the home's independence champion, and progress is based on each young person's individual needs and skills.</p> <p>All young people are engaged in a level of education or training. This represents a big improvement on their previous patterns. One young person said, 'I've done more science and mathematics here than I've done for ages – I like that.' The home also strongly promotes young people's positive engagement with their</p>	

community. Some young people were very involved with Black History Month, others attend poetry readings and some enjoy trampolining. This focus on local cultural events helps young people develop confidence and new skills and interests.

Young people who have lived in the home for some time are now much more able to keep themselves safe. For example, they travel to college alone and are able to complete residential placements successfully. Other young people have been able to move on from the home into community placements and say that the home taught them how to, 'live with others and build relationships'. Some of these young people previously put themselves at great risk by being missing for weeks at a time. Staff do not give up on such young people, and are tenacious in tracking their movements as far as possible and working closely with other agencies to get them home safely.

Staff are well supported in their work by routine psychological consultancy, and an underpinning relationship-based ethos which influences all their work. In practice, this means that they offer a highly nurturing environment where young people are routinely praised and motivated within clear boundaries. Young people value this emotional warmth, and quickly become close to their key workers. For example, young people who are newer to the home still go missing, but now keep in touch during these episodes and return home sooner.

Young people enjoy living in their cosy home, which is full of photos and inspirational quotes. They like being able to theme their bedrooms as they wish, and enjoy playing board games and watching DVDs with staff. One young person described the house as, 'very homefied'. Key-work sessions are very regular and focus on what is relevant for that young person, such as understanding how gangs work. Young people's comments are actively, and often successfully, sought in these sessions.

This home, together with its sister home, was part of the government's innovation programme. This has now ended, but the home is still part of a rigorous evaluation programme funded by the Department for Education.

Information about this children's home

This section should outline:

This home is registered to provide care and accommodation for four young women. It is owned and managed by a charitable organisation. The home provides care for young women who are at risk of, or who are subject to, child sexual exploitation, and aims to keep them as near as possible to their own community. It is currently being evaluated on behalf of the Department for Education.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
06/06/2016	Full	Good
12/01/2016	Full	Good

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 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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