

# SC457553

Registered provider: Cambian Childcare Ltd

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

## Information about this children's home

This children's home is part of a large national provision and is located in a rural setting. The home is registered to provide care and accommodation for up to two children with emotional and/or behavioural difficulties.

**Inspection dates:** 11 to 12 December 2017

**Overall experiences and progress of children and young people, taking into account**      **good**

How well children and young people are helped and protected      outstanding

The effectiveness of leaders and managers      good

The children's home provides effective services that meet the requirements for good.

**Date of last inspection:** 7 February 2017

**Overall judgement at last inspection:** declined in effectiveness

**Enforcement action since last inspection:** none

## Key findings from this inspection

This children's home is good because:

- Young people are helped to understand how to keep themselves safe when they are away from the home. In particular, the staff help young people to negotiate risks in preparation for when they move on to independence.
- Young people are living in a home that is of a good standard. Staff have paid

particular attention to ensuring that the home is comfortable and decorated in a style that reflects the young people living there.

- The registered manager is knowledgeable, experienced and leads the staff team with confidence and skill.
- Staff regularly undertake good-quality training that equips them with the knowledge and skills required to care for the young people.
- The staff team is motivated, enthusiastic and exceptionally caring in the support that they provide the young people.

The children’s home’s areas for development:

- The manager needs to ensure that young people are more fully involved with the development of the home, including the recruitment of staff.

## Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
07/02/2017	Interim	Declined in effectiveness
24/11/2016	Full	Good
09/02/2016	Interim	Sustained effectiveness
06/10/2015	Full	Good

## Inspection judgements

### Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

The young people have made good progress while living in the home. This is due to a stable and nurturing staff team with an excellent understanding of the young people's needs. Personalised, well-written plans and records chart the young people's progress.

A particular strength of the manager and staff is their understanding of each of the young people, their needs, wishes and abilities. Strong, positive and trusting relationships exist between young people and staff, and as a result young people feel able to explore their feelings and anxieties. Since the last inspection, there have been no physical interventions and the use of sanctions is rare. Instead, young people talk with staff and work through any issues that might arise.

Progress for the young people is such that they are joining in local clubs, going to college and school, making friendships and developing their relationships with their families.

Young people are helped to make sense of their experiences. This is because staff take time to talk with the young people and help them ask questions. Staff are good role models, and as advocates for the young people they challenge professionals, decisions and processes when necessary. As a result, young people have access to a range of services, for example speech and language services. This has helped young people have the confidence to communicate more effectively.

The manager and staff recognise the importance of young people developing the skills and confidence to be by themselves without staff supervising them, either when out with friends or when moving to live by themselves. For one young person, who has since successfully moved on from the home, a common sense and realistic approach was adopted by the manager and staff. Decisions and plans ratified by the social worker meant that this young person could take age-appropriate risks. A direct result of this caring and sensible approach is that young people living in the home learn how to move safely from adolescence to adulthood.

Young people's health and emotional well-being are at the very heart of the home and its ethos. The manager and staff ensure that young people maintain good physical health.

Young people live in a warm, comfortable home in a rural location. They benefit from space to play and have adventures, but are still within easy access of the city. The registered manager recognises the additional challenges of living rurally. A locality risk assessment with robust contingency plans means that the young people are well supported in the event of an emergency.

## **How well children and young people are helped and protected: outstanding**

Staff give the young people's physical safety and emotional well-being the highest priority. The manager and staff team are particularly strong in identifying and understanding the vulnerabilities of the young people as they become increasingly independent. Excellent collaborative working with professionals takes place. This is coupled with the use of extremely detailed risk assessments which lead to strategies for the staff team to support the young people.

High-risk behaviours by young people living in the home have significantly reduced. As a result, the young people are able to immerse themselves fully in activities with friends outside of the home without staff supervision. The manager and staff have made impressive progress in being able to identify risk and help young people to move safely and confidently towards independence.

The manager and staff team actively promote the positive behaviours of the young people. This is achieved in part by staff using effective communication, coupled with positive role modelling, patience and compassion. Interactions between the young people and staff are extremely positive and lovely to see. The impact of such loving, trusting relationships is that physical intervention has not taken place since the last inspection, and sanctions are rarely imposed.

Young people do not go missing from the home. The manager and staff team are clear on the protocols to follow in the event of a young person going missing. However, a common sense approach by staff means that young people are helped to understand the risks of being away from the home, and staff go the extra mile to ensure that young people are safe when they don't return on time. Staff routinely go out looking for the young person, and check who they are with and where they are staying. Staff have taken an extra duvet and made sure that they have food, and pick them up when they are ready. As a result, young people do what other young people do; practise being away from home and safely rehearse being an adult, knowing that when they come home, they haven't done anything wrong.

The manager and staff take careful account of the individualities and needs of the young people to ensure that they are well balanced. There is safe and sufficient room in the home to allow young people individual care, meetings with family and friends, and social areas for them all to meet. Depending on the needs of the young people, staff support them, joining in activities, clubs and enjoying holidays.

All significant events are reported and recorded accurately and to a high standard. They are shared with the young people's families, local authorities and Ofsted in a timely manner.

## **The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good**

There is consistent and strong leadership in the home. The registered manager provides consistency for the young people, other professionals and staff. He is appropriately

qualified and regularly returns to learning and keeping up to date with research. By sharing his knowledge across the staff team, the manager ensures that all staff have their practice informed by research.

Most of the staff group have an appropriate qualification in working with young people and some of the staff, including the registered manager, are undertaking higher-level awards. This helps to ensure that young people are cared for by a professional and able staff group.

Training is varied and staff speak well of its content and accessibility. Staff are kept up to date with latest practice developments in regular team meetings, and as a team they use this learning to challenge and improve their own practice.

The manager rigorously monitors and evaluates the home and analyses patterns and trends to identify areas for development. The home's development plan, while requiring some further attention to ensure that it is more detailed, is well written, incorporates the views of young people and focuses on improving the young people's outcomes. However, the registered manager does recognise the need to develop further young people's active involvement in the recruitment of staff.

The aims and the objectives of the home are clearly and accurately spelled out in its statement of purpose. Young people are provided with information about their home and care in a children's guide that continues to be developed. The independent visitor reports confirm the improved outcomes of the young people.

## **Information about this inspection**

Inspectors have looked closely at the experiences and progress of children and young people. Inspectors considered the quality of work and the differences made to the lives of children and young people. They watched how professional staff work with children and young people and each other and discussed the effectiveness of help and care provided. Wherever possible, they talked to children and 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.

Using the 'Social care common inspection framework', this inspection was carried out under the Care Standards Act 2000 to assess the effectiveness of the service, how it meets the core functions of the service as set out in legislation, 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'.

## Children's home details

**Unique reference number:** SC457553

**Provision sub-type:** Children's home

**Registered provider:** Cambian Childcare Ltd

**Registered provider address:** Cambian Group, 4th Floor Waterfront Building,  
Chancellors Road, Hammersmith Embankment, London W6 9RU

**Responsible individual:** Victoria Elworthy

**Registered manager:** Barry Evans

## Inspector

Linda Bond, social care inspector

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