

Island Lodge

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC393940
Inspector	Gwen Buckley
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Setting address	64 Thorney Bay Road, CANVEY ISLAND, Essex, SS8 0HQ
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Registered person	Potton Homes Ltd
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Registered person address	9 Brookway LONDON SE3 9BJ
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Responsible individual	Susan Mary Potton
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Registered manager	Emma Louise Donnelly
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Date of last inspection	30/01/2014
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Island Lodge

Inspection date	12/06/2014
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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 **improved effectiveness**.

This inspection focused on the progress made by the home since the last full inspection in January 2014 against the one requirement and six recommendations made. It also focused on the progress the young people have made in that time.

The requirement and the good practice recommendations have been fully met. Both the risk assessment and the missing person procedures have been developed. Risk assessments are in place that identify the vulnerability of young people and the measures required to keep them safe at night. Parents and placing authorities are in agreement with these measures. Each young person has an emergency escape plan in place and staff are aware of the support each young person needs should there be a fire. The frequency of staff supervision has improved and staff say they have a very good level of support from the manager, peers and the consultant psychologist. Those staff providing supervision are experienced staff. This ensures they are aware of the individual needs of young people and are able to develop the care provided to bring about improved outcomes for the young people.

Parents and external professionals spoken with during the inspection continually spoke of how caring the staff are and how well they know the young people. This has resulted in the highly personalised care being provided.

An analysis of sanctions, restraint records and incidents has meant a change in how staff and young people approach behaviour management. Staff now emphasis and focus on the positive behaviour. Lots of praise is given and instant rewards are also given. This has reduced the number of sanctions and restraints used. The restraint records do not indicate if the person talking to young people following a restraint was not involved in the restraint and records of these discussions are not always recorded.

Attendance at school and engaging in lessons is routine or improved since being at the home. Interaction between staff and young people was warm and friendly. Young people stated they feel safe in the home and bullying is not tolerated. The provision of constructive activities and good management of leisure time keeps the young people occupied. The home supports young people who want to stay at school for extra activities. Young people feel they have someone they can talk with if they are upset or concerned. One young person saying, 'I can talk to my key worker.'

Young people are actively involved in developing the strategies used to help them manage situations they have previously found difficult. Young people say staff care for them and they feel safe. Young people know they have more to learn and they are justifiably proud of how they are learning to manage their anger. As a result, there has been an impressive reduction in the need to restrain them to keep everyone safe. Staff stated, 'With the team support, young people involved in day to day decisions it feels comfortable and safe for both young people and staff.'

The management of the home is very good. Internal and external monitoring of the service is good. Very detailed reports show an excellent understanding of how the home is operating and how it plans to develop practice over the next few months. One area highlighted for development is the way they support young people to develop skills for adulthood and the next stage in their lives. Although very detailed and highlighting plans to improve the quality of the care provided, the quarterly reports produced by the manager do not include the known views of placing social workers, parents or children. These views are obtained in various ways and are continually positive. Leaving these out does not show the reader what people receiving the service thinks about the care provided. One social worker reported in the pre inspection survey that, 'the home is very committed to (**) and was sure that other homes wouldn't have been.' She also stated that the placing authority is very impressed by the organisation and how child focused it is.

Information about this children's home

This is a privately owned residential service for up to five young people with a diagnosed learning disability.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
30/01/2014	Full	good
08/04/2013	Interim	satisfactory progress
15/01/2013	Full	good
08/10/2012	Interim	inadequate progress

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

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 Regulations 2001 and the National Minimum Standards. The registered person(s) must comply with the given timescales.

Reg.	Requirement	Due date
34 (2001)	ensure the monitoring of matters set out in Schedule 6 shall provide for consultation with children accommodated in the home, their parents and placing authorities. (Regulation 34.3)	03/08/2014

Recommendations

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

- ensure children and staff are given an opportunity to discuss incidents of restraint they have been involved in, witnessed or been affected by, with a relevant adult (NMS 3.17)
- ensure where any sanctions, disciplinary measures or restraint are used, child are encouraged to have their views recorded in the records kept by the home

(NMS 3.18)

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.

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