

1241785

Priory Education Services Limited

Monitoring visit

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home is privately owned and run by an education specialist service provider. It is registered to care for up to 11 children with autism spectrum disorder and associated difficulties. The home is located within the provider's school campus, which the children currently living at the home attend.

Inspection date: 20 January 2021

This monitoring visit

This monitoring inspection was undertaken to assess how the home is being managed in the temporary absence of the registered manager. In accordance with Ofsted guidance on COVID-19 (coronavirus) restrictions, this inspection was undertaken remotely. Inspectors held telephone discussions with the responsible individual, deputy managers and staff. Social workers provided their views via email. Relevant documents were emailed to the inspectors and these were considered. Inspectors also had a virtual tour of the building.

This home was last inspected on 22 January 2020. That was an interim inspection and the home was judged as sustained effectiveness. One requirement and two recommendations were made in relation to the quality of the premises, activities on offer to children and whistle-blowing procedures. These were deemed to be met at this inspection.

Children are offered a wide variety of activities. At times, this has been difficult to maintain during COVID-19 restrictions. Staff have shown creativity in ensuring that children have choices and can experience and enjoy activities such as home cinema nights and 'fakeaways'. Improvements have been made to the garden to create a beach-themed area and include a new, large trampoline.

Leaders have made significant progress in improving the quality of the living environment. They have remedied the particular concerns identified at the last inspection. Some areas of the home still require attention, due to general wear and

tear. These areas are yet to be remedied, primarily due to the impact of COVID-19 and because of the way the space is being used for children currently receiving home education. The replacement of flooring and the painting of certain areas are planned to be undertaken as soon as is practicable. Improvements to the environment include a chart where children can place their photograph into different-coloured spaces to help them express their feelings. The prominent position of this display in the home allows staff and children to indicate how they are feeling, and for others to know their wishes and feelings.

Through monitoring, leaders have recognised that changes to children's plans have not been consistently shared with, and understood by, staff. New systems have been put in place to ensure that staff are aware of changes, including a requirement for their signature to confirm that they have read and understood any updates to children's plans. Staff commented on how well this system is working, as it improves consistency for children.

Incident reports indicate that there is appropriate oversight by leaders and managers. However, there is a degree of inconsistency in how records are completed and assessed. Reports are detailed, but the quality of recording in supporting review documents varies. This does not allow leaders to fully review effectiveness of interventions to support children in times of crisis and may mean that opportunities to learn from incidents are missed.

Child protection and safeguarding have been managed effectively. Leaders have taken appropriate steps to investigate, report and follow up any concerns. They work with external agencies effectively to manage safeguarding concerns.

Overall, there has been an increase in the frequency of supervision for all staff. The impact of COVID-19 has meant that staff are not always able to have supervision as planned. Despite this, efforts have been made to ensure that support for staff is consistent and senior staff have been trained to increase capacity to provide supervision. New staff confirm that they benefit from regular supervision and sound levels of informal support from managers, particularly through their induction period. The narrative-style template used for supervision does not capture gaps in knowledge or skills effectively, or show progress against staff targets.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
22/01/2020	Interim	Sustained effectiveness
16/07/2019	Full	Good
19/02/2019	Interim	Improved effectiveness
16/07/2018	Full	Requires improvement to be good

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

Recommendations

- The registered person should ensure that records of incidents requiring physical intervention are recorded clearly. ('Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards', page 49, paragraph 9.59)
- The registered person should ensure that all staff receive supervision that allows them to reflect on their practice, and that records show monitoring of staff progress. ('Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards', page 61, paragraph 13.2)

Information about this inspection

The purpose of this visit was to monitor the action taken and the progress made by the children's home since its last Ofsted inspection.

This inspection was carried out under the Care Standards Act 2000.

Children's home details

Unique reference number: 1241785

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Priory Education Services Limited

Registered provider address: Priory Group, 80 Hammersmith Road, London W14 8UD

Responsible individual: Hannah Cox

Registered manager: Lorraine Sadler

Inspectors

Jennie Christopher, social care inspector
Mark Newington, social care inspector

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