

1246831

Registered provider: Beaufort Care Group

Interim inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home is registered for up to four children. It provides care for children who have emotional and/or behavioural difficulties. The home is operated by a private provider which has three other homes in the area.

There has not been a registered manager in post since 13 September 2019. The current manager took up the post on 15 November 2019 and is currently awaiting the outcome of his registration interview.

Inspection date: 20 January 2020

Date of last inspection: 6 August 2019

Judgement at last inspection: requires improvement to be 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 requires improvement to be good at the last full inspection. At the interim inspection, Ofsted judges that it has sustained effectiveness.

Since the previous inspection a new manager has been appointed. Leaders and managers have a realistic view of the home and understand the areas that require improvement. Improvements have been made since the previous inspection including action to meet the three requirements set previously. Further work is required to address one of the previous three recommendations and embed the improvements into practice.

The progress children are making is varied. Two children are engaging in therapeutic work and are doing well in their personal development and their education. As a result, incidents of these children self-harming and going missing have reduced. Progress for the other two children is either inconsistent or minimal. Staff are supporting these two children, but one is currently not engaging effectively.

Leaders and managers are concerned about their ability to keep one child safe and have raised this with the placing authority so that a safety plan can be implemented. At the time of this inspection, the safety plan has not been received from the placing authority. Return home interviews are not consistently being completed by the placing authority despite leaders and managers challenging this.

Leaders and managers did not escalate their concerns swiftly when they did not receive enough information from a placing authority about overnight stays for a child. Visits commenced before receipt of this information. This is not effective multi-agency working in the best interests of the child.

Overall, the management of children's behaviours has improved, including no incidents where staff have called the police to assist. Behaviour support plans are good-quality documents that provide staff with clear strategies. On the small number of occasions when staff have not followed the agreed strategies this has been effectively addressed by leaders and managers. Some staff lack curiosity to identify when children have stored or used illegal substances in the home. A concerning smell evident during the inspection had to be pointed out to staff by the inspector.

Restraint is rarely used. When used it is proportionate to the child's behaviours and for the minimum amount of time. Staff maintain good quality records of restraints which include conversations with staff and children about what happened and how to prevent it from happening again.

The quality of children's records has improved but further work is required. Children's placement plans do not consistently provide staff with clear guidance on how a child's identified needs are to be met.

Staff are now receiving good quality, reflective supervision which helps them to review and develop their practice. Records of these sessions support this positive work. Agency staff are also receiving regular supervision, but records of these sessions are not yet of a consistently good standard.

Complaints are responded to appropriately and in a timely manner. However, records of complaints do not currently include the complainants view on the outcome of the investigation.

Monitoring of the quality of care has improved. Leaders and managers are using this information to develop the home and the training provided to staff.

The locality assessment has been reviewed since the previous inspection but not since a new child moved into the home to identify any additional or increased risks.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
06/08/2019	Full	Requires improvement to be good
07/02/2019	Full	Requires improvement to be good
27/06/2018	Full	Inadequate
05/12/2017	Interim	Improved effectiveness

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

Statutory requirements

This section sets out the actions that the registered person(s) must take to meet 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
5: Engaging with the wider system to ensure children's needs are met In meeting the quality standards, the registered person must, and must ensure that staff– if the registered person considers, or staff consider, a placing authority's or a relevant person's performance or response to be inadequate in relation to their role, challenge the placing authority or the relevant person to seek to ensure that each child's needs are met in accordance with the child's relevant plans. (Regulation 5(c))	29/2/2020
14: The care planning standard The care planning standard is that children receive effectively planned care in or through the children's home. (Regulation 14(1)(a)) In particular, ensure children's placement plans provide staff with effective guidance on how to meet the child's identified and emerging needs.	29/2/2020
39: Complaints and representations Subject to paragraph (6), the registered person must establish a procedure for considering complaints made by or on behalf of children. The registered person must ensure that a record is made of any complaint, the action taken in response, and the outcome of any investigation. (Regulation 39(1), (3)) In particular, ensure records of complaints include the views of the complainant on the outcome of any investigation.	29/2/2020

Recommendations

Under regulation 46, the registered person should review the appropriateness and suitability of the location and premises of the home at least once a year. The review should include the identification of any risks and opportunities presented by the home's location and strategies for managing these. Providers should refer to the non-statutory advice about the location assessment process:

(Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards', page 6, paragraph 15.1). In particular, ensure leaders and managers review this document when new children move into the home to identify any additional or increased risks.

Information about this inspection

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.

Inspectors have looked closely at the experiences and progress of children and young people, 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: 1246831

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Beaufort Care Group

Registered provider address: 42 Lytton Road, New Barnet, Barnet EN5 5BY

Responsible individual: Jennifer Kendall

Registered manager: Vacant

Inspector

Wendy Anderson, Social Care Inspector

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