

1250039

Registered provider: The Place Young People's Company

Interim inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home is owned by a private organisation and is registered to provide care and accommodation for up to four children and young people who have emotional and/or behavioural difficulties.

Inspection date: 20 February 2018

Judgement at last inspection: good

Date of last inspection: 28 June 2017

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 good at the last full inspection. At the interim inspection, Ofsted judges that it has declined in effectiveness.

The service has declined in effectiveness due to concerns about how a specific safeguarding situation has been managed. During the inspection, inconsistencies were found in the way that staff understood risk and interpreted the plans that were in place to manage risk in this case. The inspection found that staff are not always clear about their roles and responsibilities. Furthermore, the specific concerns relating to the child are not reflected in their risk assessment documentation. As a result, the child is at increased risk of harm.

In the period since the last inspection, a child has made an allegation against a member of staff. This allegation was not immediately reported to the local authority's designated officer. This was addressed promptly when the registered manager returned to work after a period of absence. As the response of the manager was robust, and included training for relevant staff and reiteration of policies and procedures, no requirement

against regulations is set on this occasion. Following an investigation, no further action was taken by the local authority's designated officer and no evidence of inappropriate practice was identified.

The home now benefits from having a registered manager, after an extended period of interim management arrangements.

The leadership team has taken a positive step by restricting further admissions while specific safeguarding issues are being clarified and fully understood. The manager feels that this is important to ensure that future placement matching is appropriate.

The team does not give up on children easily. While notice was given to end one child's placement in October 2017, this decision was not taken lightly. The team remained committed and worked with the placing authority during a difficult period to strengthen plans; the team also provided therapeutic support for the child. Ultimately, the placement ended after a serious assault on a member of staff. The child's social worker spoke positively about the way the team ensured that community activities took place with this child, regardless of the potential for behavioural challenges. While it was acknowledged that concerning behaviours had continued, the number of incidents had reduced.

When new children are admitted the manager ensures that there are well-organised transitions. Although the child admitted in November did not come for a visit, this was deemed as appropriate on this occasion. The social worker for the child said: 'The admission was as planned as it could be.' Written information was provided for the child; this enabled her to understand the service she would receive.

Children have good relationships with staff. Observations of relaxed interactions were made during the inspection. A child who has lived in the home since May 2017 spoke extremely positively about his experiences in the home. He is confident about the care provided; he feels safe and enjoys spending time with staff. He continues to excel across a range of sporting activities, his favourite being football. He has more recently received good support to change his school, in-line with multi-agency agreed plans. The initial part-time programme of education is progressing towards becoming full time through gradual increases in the amount of time the child spends at school. This shows that appropriate support is provided for individual educational needs.

The registered person has taken action to address the two requirements set at the time of the last inspection. Behaviour management records now consistently reflect that the staff involved have been spoken to by a manager. Medication administration arrangements have improved. The medication at the focus of the weakness at the time of the last inspection has since been identified by a health professional as no longer required, and returned to the pharmacy. No further weaknesses are identified in relation to medication administration. Managers have spent time reinforcing policies and procedures with staff in order to ensure that they understand their roles and responsibilities in these areas.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
28/06/2017	Full	Good

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
The protection of children standard is that children are protected from harm and enabled to keep themselves safe. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure— that the home's day-to-day care is arranged and delivered so as to keep each child safe and to protect each child effectively from harm. (Regulation 12(2)(b))	16/03/2018

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.

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.

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: 1250039

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: The Place Young People's Company

Registered provider address: 18b Market Place, Nottingham NG13 8AP

Responsible individual: Paul Emmerson

Registered manager: Zillah Wujkiw

Inspector

Mary Timms, social care inspector

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