

1252120

Registered provider: Paddock House Limited

Interim inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home is privately owned and provides care and accommodation for up to six children or young people. The home looks after children and young people who have emotional and/or behavioural difficulties. The manager was registered in April 2017.

Inspection date: 15 November 2019

Judgement at last inspection: requires improvement to be good

Date of last inspection: 14 May 2019

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

At the interim inspection, Ofsted judges that it has sustained effectiveness.

Children and young people receive care in line with their assessed needs. Despite some placements being in their infancy stages, children and young people are making progress in most areas from their starting points. Progress in education is mixed. The registered manager is working with relevant agencies to address this.

Since the full inspection in May 2019, several children and young people have been admitted to the home. All admissions have been planned. Some admissions have been soon after other children and young people have been admitted. This means that children and young people are not provided the opportunity to settle before new admissions are considered. The requirement made at the full inspection regarding placement planning remains an area for improvement at this inspection.

Overall, risk assessments have improved and reflect the needs of each child and young person. They detail strategies that aim to help and protect children and young people. Additionally, children and young people benefit from being able to contribute to their care planning.

Impact risk assessments are completed ahead of any admission. They consider the impact on all children and young people, but do not include the registered manager's overall evaluation. This means that it is difficult to establish how children and young people are to be supported as set out in the home's statement of purpose.

Key-worker sessions are informed by individual placement plans and risk assessments. Recordings of each session demonstrate the proactive ways that children and young people are supported to make progress.

Sanctions are used to address negative behaviours. Overall, they are fair, and recordings reflect good management oversight. Inspectors found some examples where restorative approaches were not considered. This means that children and young people are not supported in a way that addresses negative behaviours effectively.

Missing from home episodes have decreased for most children and young people. When children and young people go missing, the appropriate protocols are followed to aid their safe return. Return home interviews are requested with an independent visitor. This means that children and young people have the opportunity to speak with someone independent about their experiences.

When there are safeguarding incidents, they are appropriately recorded, and the relevant agencies are notified. The inspectors found one incident that had been notified to the relevant agencies but not to Her Majesty's Chief Inspector.

Since the full inspection, the registered manager has worked hard to help drive improvements forward. He acknowledges that ongoing staffing issues remain an area for improvement. Safer recruitment practice is good. Relevant checks are requested ahead of newly recruited staff members completing an induction process. Furthermore, all staff continue to receive training and supervisions to support their development and practice.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
14/05/2019	Full	Requires improvement to be good
12/12/2018	Interim	Improved effectiveness
17/07/2018	Full	Good
21/02/2018	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
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 staff— assess whether each child is at risk of harm, taking into account information in the child's relevant plans, and, if necessary, make arrangements to reduce the risk of any harm to the child; help each child to understand how to keep safe; have the skills to identify and act upon signs that a child is at risk of harm; manage relationships between children to prevent them from harming each other; understand the roles and responsibilities in relation to protecting children that are assigned to them by the registered person; take effective action whenever there is a serious concern about a child's welfare; and	15/12/2019

are familiar with, and act in accordance with, the home's child protection policies. (Regulation 12 (1)(2)(a)(i)(ii)(iii)(iv)(v)(vi)(vii)) In particular, that the registered manager evaluates impact risk assessments to reflect how children and young people will receive care and support in line with the home's statement of purpose.	
The care planning standard is that children— receive effectively planned care in or through the children's home; and have a positive experience of arriving at or moving on from the home. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure— that children are admitted to the home only if their needs are within the range of needs of children for whom it is intended that the home is to provide care and accommodation, as set out in the home's statement of purpose. (Regulation 14 (1)(a)(b)(2)(a))	15/12/2019
The registered person must notify HMCI and each other relevant person without delay if— a child is involved in or subject to, or is suspected of being involved in or subject to, sexual exploitation; an incident requiring police involvement occurs in relation to a child which the registered person considers to be serious; there is an allegation of abuse against the home or a person working there; a child protection enquiry involving a child— is instigated; or concludes (in which case, the notification must include the outcome of the child protection enquiry); or there is any other incident relating to a child which the registered person considers to be serious. (Regulation 40 (4)(a)(b)(c)(d)(i)(ii)(e))	15/12/2019

Recommendations

- Regulation 19(2) details sanctions that are prohibited in behaviour management. Any sanctions used to address poor behaviour should be restorative in nature, to help children recognise the impact of their behaviour on themselves, other children, the staff caring for them and the wider community. In some cases, it will be important for children to make reparation in some form to anyone hurt by their behaviour and the staff in the home should be skilled to support the child to understand this and carry it out. ('Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards', page 46, paragraph 9.38)

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: 1252120

Provision sub-type: children's home

Registered provider: Paddock House Limited

Registered provider address: B3 Kingfisher House, Team Valley, Gateshead, Tyne and Wear NE11 0JQ

Responsible individual: Susan Lincoln

Registered manager: Steven Miller

Inspectors

Jacqueline Tate, social care inspector
Susan Atkinson-Millmoor, social care inspector

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