

1256660

Registered provider: Pathways Care Group Limited

Interim inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This children's home provides care and support for up to five children who may have learning disabilities. This is one of several children's homes operated by a private provider.

The home has not had a registered manager since September 2019. An experienced acting manager has been in post since October 2019 and has applied for registration.

Inspection date: 27 February 2020

Date of last inspection: 8 April 2019

Judgement at last inspection: 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 good at the last full inspection.
At the interim inspection, Ofsted judges that it has improved effectiveness.

The acting manager has met the three requirements and four recommendations that were set at the last inspection.

The enthusiastic staff know the children well. They provide child-focused care and support. A parent said, 'I feel that [my child] is loved by the staff. They take time and show patience and kindness.' The children feel safe and like the staff. After school, they rush in to grab their snacks and talk about their day. The children are making great use of the new computer in the lounge, searching topics of personal interest while they relax.

The staff work closely with families and partner professionals. This partnership working and the new access to independent advocacy have been used to good effect to help secure one child a school placement that better meets their needs.

Some of the children demonstrate behaviours that occasionally place others at risk. The staff understand that these behaviours are a form of communication and the staff are vigilant to the child's emotional presentation. As a result, significant incidents are rare and the use of physical restraint is avoided. The suitably trained staff have used breakaway techniques on occasion to keep themselves safe from injury.

The building is safe, suitably maintained, spacious and clean. The fire arrangements are appropriate and there are suitable personal emergency evacuation plans in place. Locks that can be overridden in an emergency have been fitted to the children's bedroom doors, which gives the children an improved sense of privacy while maintaining their safety. The children love relaxing in their spacious new double beds.

New agency staff now receive a suitable induction. This means that they have an improved understanding of the children's needs and are better prepared for their roles.

External and internal quality assurance systems have improved. Consequently, the new manager has a good understanding of the strengths and areas for development. However, it is sometimes difficult to access particular information in the children's files and some of the information is out of date.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
08/04/2019	Full	Good
01/11/2018	Full	Requires improvement to be good

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

Recommendations

- Ensure that staff understand the importance of careful, objective and clear recording. Record information on individual children in a way that will be helpful to the child. ('Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards', page 62, paragraph 14.4)

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: 1256660

Provision sub-type: children's home

Registered provider: Pathways Care Group Limited

Registered provider address: Minton Place, Victoria Street, Windsor, Berkshire
SL4 1EG

Responsible individual: Olubunmi Fabusuyi

Registered manager: post vacant

Inspector

Joanna Heller, Social Care Inspector

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