

1260700

Assurance visit

Information about this children's home

This is a privately owned children's home. The home cares for four young people who may have emotional and behavioural difficulties. There is a registered school on the same grounds. Young people can receive education from this school if this is assessed as suitable to meet their needs. The manager has been registered since the home opened in 2017.

Visit dates: 13 to 14 October 2020

Previous inspection date: 18 November 2019

Previous inspection judgement: Declined in effectiveness

Information about this visit

Due to COVID-19 (coronavirus), Ofsted suspended all routine inspections in March 2020. As part of a phased return to routine inspection, we are undertaking assurance visits to children's social care services that are inspected under the social care common inspection framework (SCCIF).

At these visits, inspectors evaluate the extent to which:

- children are well cared for
- children are safe
- leaders and managers are exercising strong leadership.

This visit was carried out under the Care Standards Act 2000, following the published guidance for assurance visits.

Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills is leading Ofsted's work into how England's social care system has delivered child-centred practice and care within the context of the restrictions placed on society during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Findings from the visit

We did not identify any serious or widespread concerns in relation to the care or protection of children at this assurance visit.

The care of children

All of the young people are happy and settled in the home.

The environment is nurturing and fun. There is a cheerful atmosphere, with laughter and singing. Young people are very relaxed around staff. Young people always have a trusted adult to talk to about their worries and problems.

Young people are extremely positive about their care. Their comments include: 'I've completely changed,' 'Staff have refused to give up on me,' and 'I give it 10 out of 10.'

Staff speak very highly of young people. They value each young person for their unique personality. Staff let young people know how proud they are of the progress they make. This helps young people to grow in confidence and become more resilient.

Young people's education has not been affected by the pandemic. The home's attached school has remained open. Young people received stability at a time that was potentially worrying and stressful for them during the pandemic. One young person told the inspector: 'I thought it was wonderful that they still taught us as usual. The place is amazing.'

The safety of children

When a staff member did not pass on some important safeguarding information promptly, their mistake was picked up very quickly.

Staff at every level demonstrate a thorough knowledge of safeguarding and child protection. They are all now all fully aware of their safeguarding responsibilities.

Staff receive safeguarding training. However, records relating to staff induction into the home's safeguarding procedures are not clear. The lack of clarity could lead to a lack of understanding. New staff may not know how to follow the home's procedures if this is not put right.

The very positive and trusting relationships between staff and young people improve the safety of young people. Staff quickly identify if a young person is upset. They provide very good support to young people who are distressed.

When serious incidents happen, appropriate action is taken to protect young people. For example, when young people go missing, staff take action to ensure their safe return.

Young people are supported well to manage their behaviour and they develop effective strategies to manage their anger.

Leaders and managers

Everyone speaks highly of the registered manager. She is supported by a very capable deputy manager. Together, they lead a 'family like' culture. They are good role models for both staff and young people.

Healthy debate is encouraged within the staff team. This approach works well because it encourages a positive safeguarding culture.

Leaders developed good plans to respond to the pandemic. Effective use of technology meant that young people could continue contacting people important to them. Young people were kept engaged in activities and the school remained open. Also, an additional budget meant that they could take advantage of online shopping, which they all really enjoyed.

All of the shortfalls identified at the last visit have been addressed. As a result, managers have considerably improved the home. Clear plans are in place to ensure that this improvement continues.

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
Ensure that each employee completes an appropriate induction. (Regulation 33 (1)(a)) This is in relation to the home's safeguarding procedures.	16/11/2020
The registered person must prepare and implement a policy which— is intended to safeguard children accommodated in the children's home from abuse or neglect; and sets out the procedure to be followed in the event of an allegation of abuse or neglect. The procedure to be followed in the event of an allegation of abuse or neglect must, in particular—	16/11/2020

provide for records to be kept of an allegation of abuse or neglect, and the action taken in response. (Regulation 34(2)(d))	
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Children's home details

Unique reference number: 1260700

Registered provider: Brythan House Limited

Registered provider address: 2 Merus Court, Meridian Business Park, Leicester LE19 1RJ

Responsible individual: Jennifer Collighan

Registered manager: Fiona Muddle

Inspectors

Caroline Brailsford, Social Care Inspector
Philip Cass, Regional Inspection Manager

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