

1263270

Assurance visit

Information about this children's home

This children's home is part of a large national organisation. It is registered to care for up to three children who have a learning disability and/or emotional and/or behavioural needs.

The manager for this home registered with Ofsted on 17 June 2020.

Visit dates: 15 October 2020

Previous inspection date: 7 August 2018

Previous inspection judgement: Requires improvement to be good

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

Children have not been admitted to this home since March 2019, following a monitoring visit in January 2019 when a number of requirements were made. Since this time, the home has undergone extensive renovations, and a new responsible individual and registered manager have been appointed.

The organisation's induction and training programme has been overhauled, although a new staff team is yet to be appointed.

The safety of children

The COVID-19 pandemic delayed some of the building works planned for earlier in the year.

The management team has assured children's safety and welfare by not admitting children to the home before they are satisfied that the home environment is ready, and that a team is recruited and trained.

Leaders and managers

The registered manager is keen for the home to be operational but is adamant that the home needs to be in a suitable and homely condition before any children move in. More recently, the need for new significant repair works has come to light, which meant that it was unsafe for the inspector to physically visit the home. Managers are arranging for these issues to be rectified as soon as possible. In the meantime, to reflect the current situation, the responsible individual has applied to vary the home's registration conditions. This means that the registered person must notify Ofsted of an intention to admit children in the coming months, when they are ready to do so.

The experienced and suitably qualified manager has completed safer recruitment and safeguarding training, in addition to other relevant courses. She is currently in the process of recruiting new staff and has a clear vision and ethos for the home.

Throughout the assurance visit process, the manager was organised in ensuring that all the relevant information was made available to the inspector. The manager and responsible individual have reviewed requirements made at the previous inspection and completed improvement work as a result. The manager has also had in-depth discussions with the home's independent visitor regarding lessons learned from the past. The independent visitor produces helpful monthly reports to assist the home's development.

Children's home details

Unique reference number: 1263270

Registered provider: Priory Education Services Limited

Registered provider address: Priory Group, 80 Hammersmith Road, London W14 8UD

Responsible individual: Nancy O'Regan

Registered manager: Lisa Adey

Inspector

Sarah Canto, Social Care Inspector

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