

Birmingham Children's Trust Fostering Agency

1 Avenue Road, Aston, Birmingham B6 4DU

Monitoring visit

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this independent fostering agency

The agency was registered on 19 March 2018. The agency was formerly part of Birmingham City Council and since April 2018 has been part of Birmingham Children's Trust.

The agency offers short- and long-term mainstream placements as well as connected carer placements. A small number of foster carers provide emergency duty team placements. Children are supported by early permanency planning through fostering to adopt. In addition, children move from residential care into 'step-up' enhanced foster care.

There are 584 approved fostering households.

There are 799 children placed with the agency.

A permanent registered manager was registered by Ofsted on 8 July 2021.

Inspection date: 19 December 2023

Date of previous inspection: 16 August 2021

This monitoring visit

This monitoring visit took place after the registered manager notified Ofsted of the unexpected death of a child who was in hospital receiving planned treatment.

The purpose of the visit was to be assured about how managers have responded at this difficult time, including the arrangements for the support of the foster carers and linked staff within the agency.

The agency has responded with care and sensitivity in ensuring that those affected by the tragic circumstances have received support.

This visit found discreet and sensitive oversight by managers, who have ensured access to well-being support for the foster carers and staff that is focused on their emotional well-being.

As a supportive measure, staff from the agency have visited and been in regular contact with the foster carers. Supervision sessions are planned with the foster carers and will explore their support needs and their future plans for fostering. Bereavement counselling is being arranged for all those affected.

The registered manager already has plans for a reflective piece of work to be undertaken. The timing for this is yet to be confirmed. This review will seek to explore any broader learning that may not be evident at this time.

The requirements and recommendations made at the last full inspection were not considered during this visit and will be considered at the next full inspection.

Information about this inspection

The purpose of this visit was to be assured about actions taken following the unexpected death of a child who was in hospital under going planned treatment .

This inspection was carried out under the Care Standards Act 2000.

Independent fostering agency details

Unique reference number: 1273591

Registered provider: Birmingham Children's Trust Community Interest Company

Registered provider address: 1 Avenue Road, Aston, Birmingham B6 4DU

Responsible individual: Lisa Omar

Registered manager: Tracy Collins

Inspector

Dawn Bennett, Social Care Inspector

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Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

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