

1280210

Registered provider: First Blue Healthcare Limited

Interim inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

Ofsted is aware of the challenges that Covid-19 is currently posing to those we inspect. During this visit, the inspectors took into consideration the impact of any measures being taken to slow the spread of Coronavirus by the home. This has included the effect these have had on staffing arrangements.

This privately owned children's home is registered to provide care for up to two young people aged between eight and 17 years old with social and emotional difficulties.

The current manager started working for the company in May 2019. She is currently completing her level 5 diploma in leadership and management. She has also submitted her application to be registered with Ofsted.

The registered manager left the company on 9 January 2020. An interim manager took up post on 3 February 2020. He has the relevant qualification and experience and has submitted an application for the registered manager's post. Given the short time he has been in post, he has had limited opportunity to make sustained improvements.

Inspection date: 9 March 2020

Date of last inspection: 30 September 2019

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

Since the last inspection, managers have worked hard to improve the quality of care for young people. As a result, all requirements and recommendations raised at the last inspection have been met.

Managers have now ensured that they are using the home's internal monitoring system more effectively. For example, managers have improved their oversight of safe recruitment practice, how they review incidents and ensure that staff are following young people's risk assessments.

There is currently one young person living at the home.

Managers have challenged the child and adolescent mental health services regarding delays in the young person receiving an assessment. This challenge has helped to ensure that the young person receives the services they need.

Staff have supported the young person to participate in a range of activities. For example, the young person has been supported to go horse riding, visit theme parks, and to see their friends. These valuable opportunities help to promote the young person's self-esteem.

Staff have supported the young person to develop essential life skills. The bespoke work carried out by staff has help the young person to secure employment and learn how to access community services.

Staff complete detailed risk assessments and behavioural management plans that identify triggers that can result in the young person being placed at risk. However, sometimes there is conflicting information contained in these documents. This means that occasionally, advice and guidance for staff to manage risk can be less clear.

Staff encourage the young person to express their views and feelings about their care. As a result, the young person feels listened to when decisions are being made about their day-to-day care.

The home is now welcoming and has been decorated and furnished to meet the specific needs of the current young person. As a result, the young person takes pride in the home.

Staff seldom use physical restraint to safeguard the young person. However, when staff have needed to intervene, these incidents are managed well and fully recorded.

Since the last inspection, there have been no missing-from-care episodes. However, on rare occasions when this has happened, the staff have acted quickly and worked closely with the placing local authority, police and local services to reduce risk to the young person.

Despite all the good progress, some shortfalls remain. The home continues to have a high staff turnover. These changes in staffing have impacted on the young person's stability.

While most staff receive regular formal supervision, some staff are left out of the supervision process. This creates a missed opportunity to ensure that all staff receive the help and support that they need to develop their practice and raise their professional aspirations.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
30/09/2019	Full	Requires improvement to be good
19/02/2019	Full	Requires improvement to be good

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 leadership and management standard is that the registered person enables, inspires and leads a culture in relation to the children's home that— helps children aspire to fulfil their potential; and promotes their welfare. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to— use monitoring and review systems to make continuous improvements in the quality of care provided in the home. (Regulation 13 (1)(a)(b)(2)(e)(h))	17/04/2020
The registered person must recruit staff using recruitment procedures that are designed to ensure children's safety. The requirements are that— the individual has the appropriate experience, qualification and skills for the work that the individual is to perform. (Regulation 32 (1)(2)(3))	17/04/2020
The registered person must ensure that all employees— undertake appropriate continuing professional development; receive practice-related supervision by a person with appropriate experience. (Regulation 33 (4)(a)(b))	17/04/2020

Recommendations

- Regulations 35-39 detail the records that must be kept in children's homes. All children's case records (regulation 36) must be kept up to date and stored securely whilst they remain in the home. Case records must be kept up to date and signed and dated by the author of each entry. ('Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards', page 62, paragraph 14.3)

In particular, the registered manager should ensure that all risk assessments for the home are regularly updated and contain all the relevant information.

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: 1280210

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: First Blue Healthcare Limited

Registered provider address: Eagles Nest, Dunston Business Village, Dunston
ST18 9AB

Responsible individual: Kristie Dimaro

Registered manager: Post vacant

Inspector

Patrick McIntosh, Social Care Inspector

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