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2490938

Registered provider: London Borough of Hillingdon

Interim inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

- The local authority owns and runs this home for up to five children.
- In the home's statement of purpose, the provider states that it provides care for children who have emotional and behavioural difficulties.
- The registered manager post has been vacant since April 2019.

Inspection date: 10 December 2019

Date of last inspection: 28 August 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 sustained effectiveness.

The registered managers of two other homes run by the local authority managed this home after the departure of the registered manager. Since then, the local authority has appointed an acting manager.

The acting manager has been in post for the last three months. There have been improvements at the home since the last inspection. For example, the acting manager has met the two requirements and five recommendations made at the last inspection.

Staff described the home as 'settled' at the moment. The acting manager is making sure that any new admissions do not disturb the equilibrium of the home. Staff reported that a new risk-matching tool is helping to make sure that any new admissions are right for the current mix of children. This is to ensure that staff can meet the needs of all children living in the home.

The staff advocate for children and work effectively with other professionals such as social workers and youth mentors. Staff provide effective challenge to the local authority where they feel that decisions are not in children's best interests. Staff work effectively to make sure that children can see their family and friends, which supports children's emotional well-being.

The numbers of children going missing from the home are reducing. Some children who were often going missing have not done so for long periods. Children who do routinely go missing nevertheless stay in touch with staff.

Staff encourage children to attend education or training. When children struggle, staff seek alternative provision which is better able to meet children's needs. Staff encourage those children, who are learning English as a second language, to make friends and talk to others.

Leaders, managers and staff have improved the building by adding more soft furnishings and making sure that notices are non-institutional. Recently, a ceiling collapsed in the staff office. However, investigations and repairs are ongoing and staff are managing this situation safely.

Reviews carried out by an independent visitor, as well as by the acting manager, help to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the service. The acting manager has clear plans for how she wishes to improve the home further.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
28/08/2019	Full	Good
12/03/2019	Interim	Declined in effectiveness
03/12/2018	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 registered provider must appoint a person to manage the children's home if– there is no registered manager in respect of the home; and the registered provider– is an organisation or a partnership; does not satisfy regulation 28; or is not, or does not intend to be, in day-to-day charge of the home. If the registered provider appoints a person to manage the home, the registered provider must, without delay, give HMCI notice of– the name of the person so appointed; and the date on which the appointment takes effect. (Regulation 27(1)(a)(b)(i)(ii)(iii), (2)(a)(b))	31/01/2020

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: 2490938

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider address: London Borough of Hillingdon, Civic Centre, High Street, Uxbridge, Middlesex UB8 1UW

Responsible individual: Tony Zaman

Registered manager: Post vacant

Inspector:

Jacqueline Graves, social care regulatory inspector

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