

2526987

Assurance visit

Information about this children's home

This privately owned children's home provides long-term care for up to two children who have behavioural, emotional and/or social difficulties.

The registered manager left on 18 September 2020. A new manager has been in post since September 2020 and is currently registering with Ofsted.

Visit dates: 1 to 2 December 2020

Previous inspection date: 6 January 2020

Previous inspection judgement: 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

Two children lived at the home during the time of the COVID-19 national lockdown. One child moved on and another child moved in and then moved on. One child was living at the home at the time of this visit.

The staff and children worked together to plan activities at the home. The children have benefited from the clear, structured routines that staff have incorporated into the children's daily living. This has helped the children to feel safe.

One child remained at their family home throughout the national lockdown period. The staff supported the other child to keep in touch with the people who are important to them. This child spoke with family and friends via telephone and video calling. Once the lockdown restrictions were lifted, the staff put a risk assessment in place to support the child and parent to have face-to-face visits safely.

Staff understand the importance of children's education. They supported one child to attend virtual lessons and to complete all the work that was set by the school. The child went on to start college in September 2020.

Placement support the staff to work well with the children. However, contact plans and health plans are not informative enough to ensure that the staff are fully up to date with current information.

Staff listen to and act on children's wishes and feelings. Children have been involved in the redecoration of the house and personalisation of their rooms.

The safety of children

The staff have helped the children to understand the COVID-19 pandemic and associated restrictions. Consequently, the children feel safe and secure.

The staff continue to safeguard the children. Comprehensive risk assessments and behaviour plans are regularly reviewed and updated after an incident. This helps the staff to understand children's risks and how to minimise them.

Episodes of children going missing from home and unwanted behaviours have decreased. However, return home interviews are not completed by an independent person. There is a lack of evidence to show that the staff encourage the relevant professionals to provide these interviews. Consequently, opportunities to understand the triggers for behaviour and potential concerns that may have arisen while children are away from the home are missed.

The children know how to complain. There has been one complaint from a child and parent. This was investigated appropriately by the manager and both the child and parent were informed of the outcome in writing.

The location risk assessment does not include enough detail about the location of the home, the risks and how these can be reduced. Furthermore, there is a lack of information from other agencies to inform the assessment and provide clarity on local factors and influences.

Leaders and managers

The registered manager left the position on 18 September 2020. There was a planned handover period with the new manager, which has helped to ensure a smooth transition. The new manager is in the process of registering with Ofsted.

The children benefit from being looked after by a stable staff team. Partnership working between the manager and external professionals has been effective and information is shared promptly. This contributes to consistent care for children.

Comprehensive monitoring is in place. The independent visitor's reports are detailed, and the manager and staff use these to develop the home. Regular, good-quality supervision enables the staff to work effectively with the children and helps staff to develop their practice.

The staff have undertaken safeguarding training. Due to the pandemic, not all staff have been able to undertake or refresh physical restraint training. This lack of training has been risk assessed, so that staff whose training has lapsed do not restrain children.

The manager has met the four requirements and two of the recommendations from the last inspection. One recommendation is restated.

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 health and well-being standard is that— the health and well-being needs of children are met. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure— that staff help each child to—	06/01/2021

achieve the health and well-being outcomes that are recorded in the child's relevant plans; and take part in activities, and attend any appointments, for the purpose of meeting the child's health and well-being needs. (Regulation 10 (1)(a) (2)(a)(i)(iii)) In particular, ensure that the children's health plans contain relevant information.	
The care planning standard is that children— receive effectively planned care in or through the children's home. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure— that, subject to regulation 22 (contact and access to communications), contact between each child and the child's parents, relatives and friends, is promoted in accordance with the child's relevant plans. (Regulation 14 (1)(a)(b) (2)(d)) In particular, ensure that contact arrangements are accurately recorded in the child's plan.	06/01/2021

Recommendations

- The registered person should, when a child returns to the home after being missing from care or away from the home without permission, ensure that the responsible local authority provides an opportunity for the child to have an independent return home interview. Homes should take account of information provided by such interviews when assessing risks and putting arrangements in place to protect each child. ('Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards', page 45, paragraph 9.30)
- The registered person should review the appropriateness and suitability of the location and the premises of the home should include the identification of any risks and opportunities presented by the home's location and strategies for managing these. In particular, use information from external agencies to inform the location risk assessment. ('Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards', page 64, paragraph 15.1)

Children's home details

Unique reference number: 2526987

Registered provider: Jasmine Gardens Private Limited

Responsible individual: Talent Chirandure

Registered manager: Post vacant

Inspector

Trish Palmer, Social Care Inspector

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