

2592750

Registered provider: Break

Assurance inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This charity-run home provides care for up to two children who may have experienced neglect, abuse or trauma, along with family and placement breakdowns.

The manager was appointed in October 2023 and will be applying to register with Ofsted.

Inspection date: 9 January 2024

Date of last inspection: 21 June 2023

Judgement at last inspection: requires improvement to be good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Information about this inspection

At this inspections, the inspector evaluated:

- the care of children
- the safety of children
- the effectiveness of leaders and managers.

Inspectors have looked closely at the experiences and progress of children, using the social care common inspection framework. This assurance 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'.

Outcome from the inspection

We did not identify any serious or widespread concerns in relation to the care or protection of children at this assurance inspection.

Findings from the inspection

At the time of the inspection, there was one child living at the home. The child said that they are happy living at the home and that staff understand and support them. One child has moved out of the home since last inspection. They returned to live with family, in line with their care plan.

There are positive relationships between staff and children. Staff offer children opportunities to share their views. However, the conversations about risks are limited and staff are not always curious to open up conversations with children following incidents. This means that children may not understand their risks or develop new ways to manage them.

There has been a reduction in incidents. Incidents do still occur, but the frequency and seriousness of these have reduced. This reduction in incidents reflects the child becoming more settled.

Staff receive regular support from the company's therapeutic service. A member of the therapeutic team attends team meetings fortnightly. Staff have the opportunity to bring topics or incidents to discuss in these meetings. This supports staff to gain a therapeutic perspective about what may be causing a child's behaviours.

Staff support children's education. The child does not currently attend a school provision. Staff are working with the headteacher of the virtual school to develop a timetable for the child. There are plans for the child to have education at the home. The child has been involved in purchasing items to create a home study area.

Staff do not always attempt to prevent children from going missing from the home. On one occasion, the child was allowed to leave the home alone late at night. Staff did not offer alternative options or attempt to follow them. Return-home interviews are requested by the staff. However, there is no record that these are carried out.

Restraints are used proportionately. However, the debriefs with staff and the child following restraints do not always take place. When debriefs do happen, there are no dates recorded for these discussions. This means that it is not possible to determine whether they took place within meaningful timescales.

Some records lack detail. Some incident reports are brief and would benefit from additional information to provide more context. One child's risk assessment did not include a known risk.

The manager is aware of the areas of development for the home. The manager has implemented a new system to monitor the frequency of staff supervision sessions. This was an area identified for development and has led to staff receiving regular supervision sessions.

Management oversight is limited. Although there has been an improvement in management oversight since the new manager joined the home, the manager's comments do not always identify learning following incidents. This means that staff are not helped to see what could be done differently to support their development.

Allegations against staff are investigated. An internal investigation was completed, which led to the dismissal of a staff member. The concerns were reported appropriately to the local authority designated officer and Ofsted. The internal investigation identified some shortfalls, although these were not linked to actions or recommendations. This could lead to similar incidents occurring in the future. The investigation did not identify that the child was not spoken to by a different staff member following the concerns being raised.

The statement of purpose has not been updated or sent to Ofsted. The current manager and responsible individual's details are not in the statement of purpose. This means that families, Ofsted and professionals are unaware of who is managing the home.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
21/06/2023	Full	Requires improvement to be good
05/12/2022	Full	Requires improvement to be good
20/07/2021	Full	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 protection of children standard is that children are protected from harm and enabled to keep themselves safe. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure— that staff— assess whether each child is at risk of harm, taking into account information in the child's relevant plans, and, if necessary, make arrangements to reduce the risk of any harm to the child; help each child understand how to keep safe; understand the roles and responsibilities in relation to protecting children that are assigned to them by the registered person. (Regulation 12 (1) (2)(a)(i)(ii)(v)) In particular, support children to discuss their risks and behaviours to understand how to keep themselves safe, and ensure that staff are curious following incidents and in discussions to gain information and ensure that risk assessments contain detail about all known risks.	23 February 2024
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—	23 February 2024

understand the impact that the quality of care provided in the home is having on the progress and experiences of each child and use this understanding to inform the development of the quality of care provided in the home; use monitoring and review systems to make continuous improvements in the quality of care provided in the home. (Regulation 13 (1)(a)(b) (2)(f)(h)) In particular, ensure that management oversight identifies lessons following incidents and that actions are identified following investigations.	
The registered person must ensure that— within 48 hours of the use of the measure, the registered person, or a person who is authorised by the registered person to do so ("the authorised person")— has spoken to the user about the measure; and has signed the record to confirm it is accurate; and within 5 days of the use of the measure, the registered person or the authorised person adds to the record confirmation that they have spoken to the child about the measure. (Regulation 35 (3)(b)(i)(ii)(c)) In particular, ensure that debriefs with staff and children are carried out and dated.	8 March 2024
The registered person must— keep the statement of purpose under review and, where appropriate, revise it; and notify HMCI of any revisions and send HMCI a copy of the revised statement within 28 days of the revision. (Regulation 16 (3)(a)(b))	23 February 2024

Recommendations

- The registered person should ensure that when a child returns to the home after being missing, the responsible local authority provides an opportunity for the child to have an independent return-home interview. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 45, paragraph 9.30)
- The registered person should ensure that staff understand the importance of careful, objective, and clear recording. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 62, paragraph 14.4)

Children's home details

Unique reference number: 2592750

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Break

Registered provider address: Schofield House, 1 Spar Road, Norwich, Norfolk
NR6 6BX

Responsible individual: Daniel Baldock

Registered manager: Post vacant

Inspector

Leanne Lyon, Social Care Inspector

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, further education and skills, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for children looked after, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 1231, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

You may reuse this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, visit www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence, write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk.

This publication is available at <http://reports.ofsted.gov.uk>.

Interested in our work? You can subscribe to our monthly newsletter for more information and updates: <http://eepurl.com/iTrDn>.

Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 1231
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.gov.uk/ofsted

© Crown copyright 2024