

2594233

Registered provider: Children & Adolescents Placement Provisions Limited

Assurance inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home provides care for up to four children with emotional and social difficulties.

There is a manager in post who is not yet registered.

Inspection date: 9 March 2023

Date of last inspection: 5 July 2022

Judgement at last inspection: requires improvement to be good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Information about this inspection

At this inspection, 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'.

Findings 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.

The care of children

At the time of this inspection, four children were living at the home. Since the last inspection, one child has left the home. Staff supported them to move to semi-independent living.

All children have an education placement, but attendance remains low for all children. Staff plan the children's week with them, which includes attending school. However, children often refuse to attend, despite staff attempts to encourage them. One child did attend school for a short period and sat their mock exams. When children are not in school, staff use this time to develop their life skills. Activities include children cooking, cleaning and attending the gym, which children do engage in.

Staff understand the importance of building relationships with children. Staff meet with children to talk about how to develop their social skills. One child said, 'I do get on with the staff, really I do.' One child has made progress in understanding how other people may feel when he physically hurts them and uses inappropriate language. One child goes to a youth club and is learning to make appropriate friendships. Staff help children develop a sense of belonging and build self-esteem.

Staff make referrals to external professionals to help children with their mental health. In addition, the home's therapist meets with children on a regular basis. This helps children talk about anything that worries them. The therapist produces behaviour plans based on her knowledge of the child. These help staff to work with children using a consistent and supportive approach. As a result, there has been a notable decrease in one child's behavioural incidents.

Children are invited to house meetings. These provide them with opportunities to talk about living together and any concerns they have. Children recently requested individual menu plans rather than one menu for all. As a result, children now draw up their own plans and help to order their food. Children have asked for a gym to be created in the cellar. Managers are considering this. Children also asked for more movie nights and staff are organising this, based on children's preferences.

The safety of children

Physical restraint is used as a last resort and only if a child is in danger or a staff member is being harmed. Staff use verbal reassurance and de-escalation techniques and provide children with space before physically holding them. When restraint has been used, it has been appropriate and proportionate. Debriefs are held with staff

and the child. This helps staff to reflect on their practice and the child to understand why they were held. Managers evaluate these incidents within given timeframes.

When children leave the home without permission or do not come home after being in the community, staff follow missing-from-home protocols. Staff look for children in places they may go. They call children's phones and report them missing to the police. Staff speak with children when they return. This helps them to understand why children leave and to put further plans in place to protect children.

Staff receive training to meet the needs of the children. While all staff have been trained in medication administration, four staff have not received medication refresher training within the agreed timescales. This oversight increases the risk of a medication error occurring.

Improvements have been made to the environment. A system is in place to ensure any damage is repaired as quickly as possible. However, on one child's bedroom floor, the inspector found sharp plastic and plaster from a wall, which could have been used by the child to harm themselves.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers

An experienced and qualified manager has recently been appointed to manage the home. The manager is using the probation period to consider if she will stay at the home and register with Ofsted. An experienced deputy manager is supporting the manager in her role.

Since the last inspection, information about children and staff has been moved to an electronic database. The system has improved recording because of the prompts used in the documents. The system also highlights concerns to managers and links documents together when completed. For instance, in relation to a child leaving the home without permission, the recording is detailed, and this event has been linked to a detailed incident form. This means managers have better oversight of all incidents.

Managers have implemented monitoring systems and are proactive in their use. This helps them to review the quality of care provided to children.

Managers are investing in staff development. They have delivered workshops to staff on relevant topics. For example, substance misuse, recording of incidents, the importance of handovers and restorative practice have been explored. In addition, all staff are completing a six-week course on good practice. Staff spoken with said they feel supported by managers.

Since the last inspection, there has been one complaint, made by a neighbour about noise from the home. Managers met with the local authority to address the concerns. They talked to the children about noise and living in the community. A letter of apology has been written to the affected neighbour.

Staff have supervision meetings with their manager, however, the deputy manager was unable to evidence that these meetings were held regularly. This requirement has therefore been restated.

The manager has met two requirements and one recommendation from the last full inspection. Following this inspection, two further requirements have been made.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
05/07/2022	Full	Requires improvement to be good
18/05/2022	Full	Inadequate
15/06/2021	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 the premises used for the purposes of the home are designed, furnished and maintained so as to protect each child from avoidable hazards to the child's health. (Regulation 12 (1) (2)(d)) This particularly refers to staff checking children's bedrooms and removing any materials that may harm them.	6 April 2023
The leadership and management standard is that the registered person enables, inspires and leads a culture in relation to the children's home that— promotes their welfare. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to— ensure that staff have the experience, qualifications and skills to meet the needs of each child. (Regulation 13 (1)(b) (2)(c)) This particularly refers to staff receiving medication training in line with the home's policy.	21 April 2023
The registered person must ensure that all employees— undertake appropriate continuing professional development; receive practice-related supervision by a person with appropriate experience; and	21 April 2023

have their performance and fitness to perform their roles appraised at least once every year. (Regulation 33 (4)(b)(c))

This particularly refers to supervision of staff taking place in line with the organisation's policy.

This requirement was made at the last inspection and is restated.

Children's home details

Unique reference number: 2594233

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Children & Adolescents Placement Provisions Limited

Registered provider address: Barratt House Office G3a, Kingsthorpe Road,
Northampton NN2 6EZ

Responsible individual: Esther Parent

Registered manager: Post vacant

Inspector

Mandy Start, Social Care Inspector

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