

2625942

Registered provider: My Choice Children's Homes Ltd

Interim inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The children's home is privately owned. It opened in May 2021. It is registered to provide care and accommodation for up to four children with social, emotional and/or mental health difficulties.

The manager has been registered with Ofsted since May 2021.

Inspection date: 16 March 2022

Date of last inspection: 17 August 2021

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 this interim inspection, Ofsted judged that it has improved in effectiveness.

At the last inspection, on 17 August 2021, five requirements were made. These have all now been addressed and children are seen to be more settled and are making significant progress.

The decor and tidiness of the home are of a very good standard. The home is well maintained and comfortable. No hazards related to damage or poor maintenance were identified. Each child's room is decorated to their own preferences, and is welcoming and reflects each child's interests. 'I love my room,' one child said.

At the last inspection, a requirement was raised in relation to staff providing evidence that children understood why decisions were being made on their behalf. A number of key-work sessions and debriefs after incidents were examined. Children also met with the inspector and spoke about how they feel involved in the running of the home. There is now clear evidence that children are consulted when decisions are made and they have an opportunity to voice their views about how they feel they are being treated.

Two requirements, in relation to the recording of incidents of restraint and the monitoring of staff practice, have been met. Records examined showed that the use of restraint is proportionate and appropriate, and that managers review and assess these in line with regulations. Children's views are clearly recorded and the rationale and debriefs show that strategies are reviewed after the event to see if there is a need to change practice and adjust support for the children.

Records including incident reports, restraint records, records of team meetings and the assessment of the service were looked at. These show that the registered manager is actively involved in their review to ensure that children are progressing and receiving the support and nurture that they need.

Feedback from professionals and relatives about the care and support provided are unanimously positive. One social worker commented, 'He's a different child now, he's thriving. The staff have been brilliant.'

One child said, 'I'm completely different now. I go to school full time and I am much better at controlling my temper.'

Interactions observed between the children and staff were warm and caring. Spontaneous acts of affection were seen, with children hugging staff and seeking their company. Children and staff show a genuine fondness towards each other.

Children continue to benefit from opportunities to take part in enriching activities in the community and some have been able to join clubs, such as Cubs. The value of education is promoted and attendance is an embedded expectation in the routine of the home. Staff are well aware that, at times, some children may struggle at school and so offer direct support if needed. This helps the children's stability and enables them to know that members of staff will make efforts to help them succeed.

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has been managed well. Managers and staff have worked together to ensure that the continuity of care and support to the children has not been compromised. Children speak about how they felt safe and cared for during this time and this reflects the efforts and resilience shown by the staff team.

No requirements or recommendations have been made during this visit to the home.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
17/08/2021	Full	Requires improvement to be good

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: 2625942

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: My Choice Children's Homes Ltd

Registered provider address: My Choice Children's Homes Ltd, Unit 3a, Mill Green Business Estate, Mill Green Road, Haywards Heath RH16 1XQ

Responsible individual: Dawn Ives

Registered manager: Michelle Allen

Inspector

Paul Taylor, Social Care Inspector

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