

2675902

Registered provider: Barnardo's

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home is owned by a national charity that provides care for children aged between 10 and 17 years, who may experience social and emotional difficulties.

The registered manager left in October 2022. The current manager has been in post since December 2022 and has applied to register with Ofsted.

At the time of the inspection, no children were living at the home.

Inspection dates: 10 and 11 July 2024

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people, taking into account	requires improvement to be good
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How well children and young people are helped and protected	requires improvement to be good
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The effectiveness of leaders and managers	requires improvement to be good
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The children's home is not yet delivering good help and care for children and young people. However, there are no serious or widespread failures that result in their welfare not being safeguarded or promoted.

Date of last inspection: 22 November 2023

Overall judgement at last inspection: requires improvement to be good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
22/11/2023	Full	Requires improvement to be good
31/01/2023	Full	Good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: requires improvement to be good

There continue to be weaknesses in the home's leadership and management, which when coupled with insufficient supervision of the child, have resulted in the current judgement.

Since the last inspection, one child has moved on to independent living. This report considers the experiences of children who have lived at the home and left since the last inspection.

Children's experiences at this home are variable, and there have been some insufficiencies in safeguarding practices and managerial oversight. This inconsistency means that children do not always make good progress. For example, the care provided to one child resulted in limited educational progress. Staff have made efforts to ensure that children engage with education, but this has not proven effective to date.

Staff ensure the children have access to health services and work with health professionals to ensure that children's needs are addressed as required. This supports children's overall physical well-being.

Children are supported to maintain relationships that are important to them, which enhances their sense of identity and social well-being.

How well children and young people are helped and protected: requires improvement to be good

Since the last inspection, there have been two significant safeguarding incidents. Both of these incidents involved a lack of supervision by staff and could have placed the child at possible risk of harm. The manager took action to address the shortcomings of staff and to reduce the likelihood of repeat incidents.

Staff implementation of risk assessments and support plans is not always effective; however police call-outs to the home have continued to reduce since the assurance visit in March 2024.

The condition of the home does not provide a warm, nurturing and safe environment for children due to various areas requiring repair. The condition of the property is not always maintained in line with the home's policies. For example, the home had exposed wiring and fire alarms were not maintained.

When children are missing from the home, staff follow missing-from-home protocols and undertake relevant actions to ensure information is shared with professionals. Staff attempt to make contact with children to promote their safety.

Managers ensure that there are safe recruitment practices in place. This ensures that staff are appropriately vetted, and able to work with children in line with the home's safe recruitment policy.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: requires improvement to be good

The interim manager has been in post for approximately a year, and is supported by the responsible individual. This has not resulted in a sustained improvement to the quality of care provided to children, and there continue to be weaknesses in oversight of this home.

Leaders and managers do not always ensure that staff have the relevant skills, knowledge and experience to positively promote the progress of children with specific support needs. Consequently, a child left the home having made minimal progress considering their starting point.

There is a newly implemented training and workforce development plan in place, and staff are undertaking the training to develop their skills.

Supervision of staff is regular and is focused on the needs of children. This ensures that staff have opportunities to discuss the children's support needs. Staff said that they felt supported by the manager.

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, The 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; have the skills to identify and act upon signs that a child is at risk of harm; understand the roles and responsibilities in relation to protecting children that are assigned to them by the registered person; take effective action whenever there is a serious concern about a child's welfare; and are familiar with, and act in accordance with, the home's child protection policies. (Regulation 12 (1) (2)(a)(i)(ii)(iii)(iv)(v)(vi) (3)) In particular, the registered person should ensure that staff appropriately supervise children to prevent the use of hazardous or harmful substances, and that staff regularly review children's welfare and act in accordance with the home's policies and the children's plans.	30 August 2024

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)) In particular, the registered person should ensure that areas of disrepair are addressed in a timely manner so as not to pose a risk of harm to children.	30 August 2024
The education standard is that children make measurable progress towards achieving their educational potential and are helped to do so. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure— that staff— help each child to achieve the child's education and training targets, as recorded in the child's relevant plans; support each child's learning and development, including helping the child to develop independent study skills and, where appropriate, helping the child to complete independent study; (Regulation 8 (1)(a) (2)(a) (3)) In particular, staff should understand the barriers to learning that each child may face and take appropriate action to help the child to overcome any such barriers.	30 August 2024
The care planning standard is that children— receive effectively planned care in or through the children's home; and have a positive experience of arriving at or moving on from the home. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure—	30 August 2024

the placement of each child in the home; and plan for, and help, each child to prepare to leave the home or to move into adult care. (Regulation 14 (1)(a) (2)(a))	
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. (Regulation 13 (1)(a)(b)) In particular, the registered person should ensure that they have improved oversight of the home to facilitate safe and effective care to children.	30 August 2024

Information about this 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: 2675902

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Barnardo's

Registered provider address: Tanners Lane, Barkingside, Ilford IG6 1QG

Responsible individual: Danielle Rebbitt

Registered manager: Post vacant

Inspectors

Richard Wyper, Social Care Inspector

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