

# 2677723

Registered provider: London Borough of Barnet

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

## Information about this children's home

This local authority home provides therapeutic residential care for up to six children between the ages of 11 and 16 years.

The home and manager registered with Ofsted in June 2022. The manager is suitably qualified.

At the time of this inspection, there were five children living in the home.

### Inspection dates: 23 and 24 August 2023

|                                                                                           |             |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| <b>Overall experiences and progress of children and young people,</b> taking into account | <b>good</b> |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|

|                                                             |      |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|------|
| How well children and young people are helped and protected | good |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|------|

|                                           |      |
|-------------------------------------------|------|
| The effectiveness of leaders and managers | good |
|-------------------------------------------|------|

The children's home provides effective services that meet the requirements for good.

**Date of last inspection:** 25 January 2023

**Overall judgement at last inspection:** good

**Enforcement action since last inspection:** none

## Recent inspection history

| Inspection date | Inspection type | Inspection judgement |
|-----------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| 25/01/2023      | Full            | Good                 |

## Inspection judgements

### **Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good**

Children receive thoughtfully planned, individualised support and care at this home. They benefit from the integrated therapeutic model of care provided by two in-house therapists. The clinical team provides individual sessions to children as well as helping to formulate a trauma-informed care plan for staff to implement. A consistent response from the staff team is helping children to make substantial progress from their respective starting points.

The home is in a purpose-built building that feels comfortable and homely. It is well maintained and well resourced, with extensive entertainment technology, a gym, a library and large outside areas.

Children like living in the home. Some of the children told the inspector that staff care about them and involve them in decisions about their day-to-day care. Members of staff were observed laughing with the children and, when needed, providing emotional support.

Children engage in a wide range of fun and unique activities, for example, yoga or going to see their favourite singer in concert. Children told the inspector that if they ask to do something new the home usually arranges this for them.

Family members and professionals say they receive effective communication from the staff. Several said the whole staff team understands each individual child's needs and provides them with a high standard of care.

Children attend support sessions with the substance misuse service, whose staff said the home shares information well and helps them to build a relationship with the children.

All children have a full-time education placement. When children struggle to access a full curriculum due to their complex needs, the staff are creative and take the initiative in helping build children's confidence to re-engage with education. Children who have been out of education for a period have started to attend school again.

Children are well prepared for independence, with practical skills and emotional support. Staff recognise their role in helping children to stay in touch with their families.

### **How well children and young people are helped and protected: good**

Children's risk assessments are specific and relevant to them, and include clear guidance to staff about how to keep children safe. This includes practical measures for dealing with traumatised children who may self-harm. Key-work sessions focus on areas of need specific to children and help them learn to keep themselves safe.

Managers thoroughly assess the needs of new children coming into the home and any impact this change may have on children already in the home.

Since the last inspection, there have been incidents of bullying and physical aggression between children. Staff have worked hard to manage these situations to ensure that there are effective action plans in place that help to protect children. This approach has resulted in a marked reduction in the number of incidents.

Episodes of children going missing from the home have significantly reduced. When children do go missing, staff follow set protocols to ensure that children return home safely.

### **The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good**

Leaders and managers are aspirational for the children. They are enthusiastic about helping children to overcome trauma and to learn life skills. Staff have a clear shared vision for each child.

Staff respect and value the registered manager. Staff supervision records and team meetings demonstrate in-depth discussions about the children, including reflection and clear direction.

Staff morale is high. Training is effective, with a focus on ensuring that staff can meet the needs of the children in their care. However, more specific training around areas of children's complex needs requires further development.

Although some of the children's records are of high quality, this is not yet consistent across all records.

## **What does the children's home need to do to improve?**

### **Recommendations**

- The registered person should ensure that staff have access to specialist training to help them provide additional support to children with complex needs. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 53, paragraph 10.11)
- The registered person should ensure that staff are familiar with the home's policies on record-keeping and 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)

### **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:** 2677723

**Provision sub-type:** Children's home

**Registered provider:** London Borough of Barnet

**Registered provider address:** London Borough of Barnet, 2 Bristol Avenue,  
Colindale NW9 4EW

**Responsible individual:** Nichola Gallagher

**Registered manager:** Sophia Nzenwa

## Inspector

Claire Beckingham, Social Care Inspector

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